

# Pass the Trust Test

It is no overstatement to say that people today are desperate for leaders, but they want to be influenced by someone they can trust, a person of good character.

One of my favorite authors, and one who is in the business of developing good leaders, is John C. Maxwell, speaker and minister. In his book, *Leadership Promises for Your Week*, he directs a message to those who have responsibility for guiding others. If you want to become someone who can positively influence other people, he said, consider these principles:

- **Model consistency of character.** Solid trust can only develop when people can trust you all the time.
- **Employ honest communication.** To be trustworthy, you have to be like a good musical composition; your words and music must match.
- **Value transparency.** If you're honest with people and admit your weaknesses, they appreciate your honesty. And they are able to relate to you better.
- **Exemplify humility.** People won't trust you if they see that you are driven by ego, jealousy, or the belief that you are better than they are.
- **Demonstrate your support of others.** Nothing develops or displays your character better than your desire to put others first.
- **Fulfill your promises.** One of the fastest ways to break trust with others is in failing to fulfill your commitments.

Maxwell concludes that a good leader's promise to the team should be:

*I will guard my character, take responsibility for decisions, and consistently try to do the right thing. I won't pretend to be perfect, but I will demonstrate that I am reliable and worthy of your trust.*

And God's promise to leaders is found in Psalm 37:3-4: *Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

– Beecher Hunter