

## The Ten Commandments of Effective Leadership

I. Thou shalt know thyself and like what you knowest - if you have completed your self-analysis and you don't like what you find - CHANGE !

II. Thou shalt not be what thou wishest not to lead - what you DO is far more important, influential, and effective than what you SAY.

III. Thou shalt learn more and communicate better if thy ears are open and thy mouth is shut - most problems are created because of a failure in communication. Most failures in communication are the result of people hearing, but not listening, to one another.

IV. Thou shalt know thy team and be a team player - build teamwork by identifying shared goals, marshalling the talents and abilities of team members toward meeting the goals, and recognizing the advantages of a dedicated group effort versus those of an individual.

V. Thou shalt be honest - to thyself as well as others! All good leaders make mistakes, but rarely do they make the same mistake more than once.

VI. Thou shalt not avoid risks: thou shalt manage them - successful leaders know that every action and decision holds some degree of risk, however ignoring risks is the greatest danger of all. Seek success and see change as an opportunity.

VII. Thou shalt believe in thyself before any others shall - have the contagious confidence in yourself to motivate team members. But do not confuse confidence with conceit. "The correlation between these terms is directly proportional to that between being a leader and being a loser". (p. 300)

VIII. Thou shalt know that offense doth always outscore defense - the most effective leaders are quicker to act than react.

IX. Thou shalt know the ways of disagreement and the means of compromise - any given problem has a variety of solutions, and the real winner and leader is the one who can accomplish the goals of all concerned. Build your bridges in communication to cross over the same river as many times as needed.

X. Thou shalt not lead before thou followest - effective leaders lead as they would like to be led and follow as they would like to be followed.

-Ludewig, Larry M., "The Ten Commandments of Effective Leadership", NASPA Journal, Spring, 1988, Volume 25, No. 4, pp. 297-301