

Essentials to Leadership: Character Development

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

Course description: Character Development – part 6

This course continues to discuss the biblical necessity of godly character. Each lesson dives into specifics about how we develop our character in ways that build credibility, respect, and the type of integrity to lead God's people.

Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:

- A. Defined and described credibility as it relates to leadership.
- B. Considered two biblical examples of credibility.

Outline of the class:

- A. Divide the class into groups of four. Ask each group to spend 10 minutes to define the word "credibility" and describe the value of credibility to leadership.
- B. After the task is finished, ask each group to share their definition and the value of credibility to the role of a leader. Make a list of these answers on the whiteboard.
 - 1. In reality, there is a great correlation between trust and credibility, because credibility is a quality of being believable or worthy of trust.
 - 2. It further carries the quality of being convincing or believable.
- C. In John Maxwell's material, he speaks about credibility and points out two important thoughts to remember. Think about and discuss how each of these thoughts relate to our approach to the goals, dreams, or vision for the church.
 - 1. Every message people receive is filtered through the messenger who delivers it. If the messenger is credible, then so is the message.
 - 2. We tend to try and get people to believe in the dream, idea or program without first establishing the credibility in leadership first.
- D. Consider to biblical examples.
 - 1. Gideon (Judges 6:11 – 8:35) Be familiar with this text.
 - a. The Lord sends Gideon to defeat the Midianites.
 - b. He tears down the altar to Baal (6:28-35)
 - c. He takes 300 men chosen from 22,000 to fight (7:1-25)
 - d. Zeba and Zalmunna and others are taken (8:1-21)

- e. He takes no credit and does not want to rule over Israel, nor his son or grandsons. He says, “The Lord shall rule over you” (8:22-23).
- 2. Paul (2 Thessalonians 3:6-13) Be familiar with what Paul says here also.
 - a. Instruction not to associate with certain kinds of brethren.
 - b. Christians need to hold to the traditions taught by the apostles.
 - c. Examples trump exhortation.
 - d. Paul seems to make a substantial point about their credibility and how their credibility is connected to these areas listed.
- E. A few thoughts to consider with regards to credibility from John Maxwell.
 - 1. If followers do not believe in the vision and the leader has no credibility, followers will get another leader.
 - 2. The same is true if followers believe in the vision, but not the leader.
 - 3. If the leader has credibility, but followers do not believe in the vision, they work to get another vision.
 - 4. If the leader has credibility and they believe in the vision, they will wholeheartedly get behind the leader.

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of credibility in connection to our leadership.
- B. Credibility has a biblical foundation, and when credibility exists, the strength of leadership grows.
- C. Next week, we will build on this discussion and consider how we can build our credibility as leaders.

Recommended Reading:

Maxwell, John. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*

Maxwell, John. *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of Leaders*