



Is it possible for a leader to be successful without a good attitude? Dr. John Maxwell says, "The answer is yes, but their attitude will determine how much they enjoy the success." On the other hand, a poor or negative attitude can diminish their effectiveness because it stands in opposition to the universal principles of leadership and love.

Truly great leaders in history, especially those whose lives we read about in the Bible, had these characteristics:

1. A Positive Attitude (Leaders believed God could use them to do anything)
2. A Servant Attitude (Leaders generously served God and others)
3. A Determined Attitude (Leaders worked persistently and would not quit)
4. A Loving Attitude (Leaders valued others and treated them as more important than themselves)

As a leader, Jesus taught that a person's highest value, their first motivation and primary consideration must be love. *Love God and love others as yourself.* "Love believes all things" (positive attitude), love will "consider others better than yourselves" (servant attitude), and "love never fails" (determined attitude). This, however, is an attitude that is rarely mentioned in the context of diplomatic negotiations or personnel management.

Before you conclude that the *directive leadership* model ("I'm in charge here") is superior and that love is contrary to effective leadership, consider the essentials of the *transformational leadership* model as applied to the most improbable case study: the military chain of command. Col. Mark Homrig of the Australian Air Force writes, "In the final analysis, transformational leadership in the military should fuse the leader's vision so strongly in the follower, that both are motivated by high moral and ethical principles." This happens when "leaders express genuine interest in followers," and "genuine trust exists between leaders and led."

Your attitude at the beginning of a task affects its outcome. Furthermore, your attitude toward others often determines their attitude toward you! And if you see yourself as God does, accepted, secure and significant, confidence and peace will envelope your attitude! It's your choice!

1. *In the face of adverse circumstances, what can help your attitude?*

Philippians 4:4-5

Philippians 4:6-9

Philippians 4:10-13

2. *In the presence of challenging people, what can help your attitude?*

Matthew 22:36-40

Romans 12:9-16

Philippians 2:1-5

3. *In the quiet of personal reflection, what can help your attitude?* (See also <http://www.ficm.org/whoami.htm>)

Colossians 3:1-2

Ephesians 4:22-24

Romans 12:1-2

Hebrews 12:1-3

*"In humility consider others better than yourselves....
Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus."*

(Philippians 2:3,5)

Philippians 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Philippians 4:6-9

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Matthew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Romans 12:9-16

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Philippians 2:1-5

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Colossians 3:1-2

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Ephesians 4:22-24

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.