

Desirable Leadership Traits

Analysis of the leadership traits that the U.S. military teaches compared to a biblical perspective

Bible Reference	Trait	Behaviors that Demonstrate the Trait	Behaviors that Show Lack of the Trait
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jdg 7, Gideon's alert posture • Eph 3:12, boldness in Christ 	Bearing	Maintain alert, confident posture. Use civil language. Carry yourself with dignity.	Slouch. Curse.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jdg 4:4-10, Eze 2:6 not afraid • 1Cor 16:13, strong • Neh 6:10-13, response to threats 	Courage	Face fear with calmness. Stand up for what is right. Admit mistakes. Respond appropriately to threatening situations.	Show nervousness. Hide mistakes. Overreact or under-react.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1Kgs 18:21, make up your mind • Pro 15:22 multitude of counselors • Pro 20:18, good advice 	Decisiveness	Make decisions promptly and state them in a clear manner. Seek information and opinions from others (when appropriate) and evaluate it objectively.	Decide without counsel of others. Show hesitation. Change direction frequently. Cave-in to emotional appeals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Col 3:22-23, obey masters, do it heartily as to the Lord • Gal 6:5, bear own burden 	Dependability	Reliably perform duties with a high standard of excellence.	Do the minimum. "Forget" the assignment. Fail to meet the standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mat 24:13, endure to the end • 1Cor 15:58, steadfast, unmovable 	Endurance	Maintain mental and physical stamina in the face of stress, hardship, fatigue, and pain.	Look for an easy way out. Lack the strength to endure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psa 119:139, zeal • Rom 12:11, fervent in spirit • Gal 4:18, zealous 	Enthusiasm	Show interest and zeal in performing duties. Know and share the why or importance of a mission.	Just go through the motions. Complain.
Luke 14:28, count the cost	Initiative	Meet new and unexpected situations with prompt action and resourcefulness. Plan ahead to anticipate problems.	Panic. Hold back and let someone else figure out what to do.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1Pet 2:12, honest • Jas 5:12, let your yea be yea • Mat 12:37, by your words you'll be justified or condemned 	Integrity	Be frank. Be truthful. Honor your commitments.	Spin things to your advantage. Tell people what you think they want to hear. Give excuses.
Heb 13:9, not carried about with strange doctrine	Judgment	Seek the best information. Logically weigh the facts and consider possible solutions. Make a sound decision.	Think you know it all. Make needless mistakes. Behave recklessly.
Deu 16:19, not respect persons, not wrest judgment Rom 2:13 be fair	Justice	Be fair. Be impartial. Be consistent.	Show favoritism. Respond in an unpredictable manner.
Pro 1:5, increase learning 2Tim 2:15, study	Knowledge	Continue to learn and build knowledge.	Get busy with daily minutia and stop improving yourself.
Pro 28:20, faithful abound with blessings	Loyalty	Be faithful. Keep confidences.	Gossip. Talk behind others' backs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro 15:1, soft answer • Pro 25:15, soft tongue 	Tact	Deal with others in a respectful manner. Be courteous.	Treat others in a rude or harsh manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psa 69:4, restored that which I took not away • Zech 7:9, show mercy • 2The 3:13, be not weary in well doing 	Unselfishness	Place the comfort of others above your own. Share hardships. Look out for the welfare of those entrusted to your care.	Let others fend for themselves. Be the first one in the chow line.