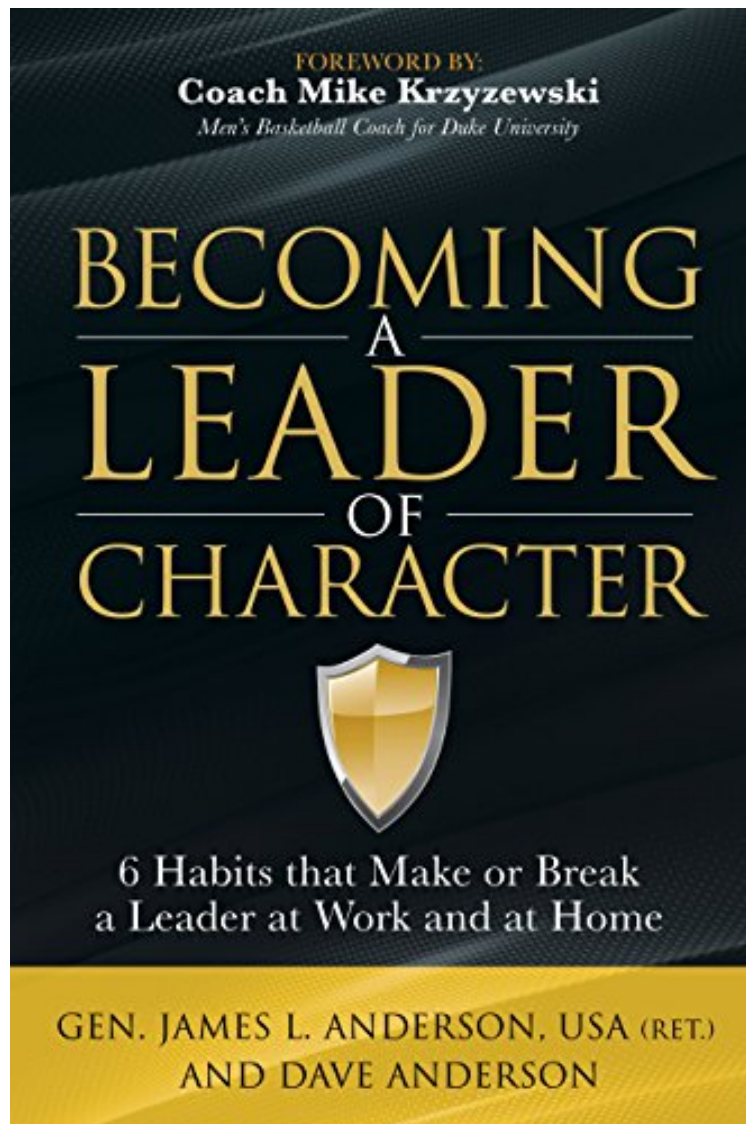


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Becoming a Leader of Character: 6 Habits That Make or Break a Leader at Work and at Home

Dave Anderson, James Anderson

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Dave Anderson, James Anderson : Becoming a Leader of Character: 6 Habits That Make or Break a Leader at Work and at Home before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Becoming a Leader of Character: 6 Habits That Make or Break a Leader at Work and at Home*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. *Become a Leader of Character Without Graduating from West Point* By Michael J. Kerrigan In about 180 pages General Jim Anderson and his West Point graduate son have crafted a

practical leadership manual based the Aristotelean model but supported in clear drills on how to build one's own character(see pages 2829.) Just like Aristotle's model, the Andersons book is designed with the idea the more we speak about making wise choices, the more likely we are to act in that way. In brief our habits form our character. The forward to *Becoming a Leader of Character*, written by no less than Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski (the number one in all time coaching victories in NCAA Men's basketball) shares the Anderson treatise and foretells the "practice drills that form our Habits of Character." and those that the Andersons' lay out; namely; "Our character is in our own control. We build it, sustain it or destroy it based on our choices. The choices we make daily prepare us for the bigger choices that will come when challenges arise." I believe readers will agree with Coach K, we should listen to these guys. The Andersons have laid out ways to develop our character and have identified the habits (Integrity, Selflessness, Duty and Positivity) we need to practice. If we follow their advice so that we can DO what we want to Be, our culture will be greatly strengthened.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Gripping read that will inspire you to be a Leader of Character and move away from complacency! By Prisca M This is a very powerful book--one that evokes strong emotions and pulls at the heartstrings as you reflect on the great leaders in the book and in your life--leaders set apart by their character. The authors are able to articulate the six habits--Courage, Humility, Integrity, Selflessness, Duty Positivity--and relate gripping, real-life examples, while asking critical questions that make you dig deep and want to do away with complacency. We must leave our comfort zones and get to work (on ourselves)! The Andersons' compelling examples and questions are so insightful as you carefully study each habit. The nuggets of wisdom apply to all areas of leadership in our homes, schools, businesses, etc. Leading with character is in short supply these days, and the effects are devastating, so we must strive to be Leaders of Character in our daily walk, and this book equips and inspires you to do just that. My heart was full of gratitude as I thought back over the Leaders of Character who have poured into my life, and I can't wait to say thank you with this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Powerful, concise, encouraging and timeless!!! By C. L. Heaton, M.D. In an age when "Winning is not everything, it is the only thing," victory without virtue leaves the souls of the victors hollow and is destructive to the civility of its community. This extremely powerful and astonishingly compact manual highlights the importance of character development in leadership and hinges on two ageless concepts:-The theoretical principle that failure of leadership is first and foremost "a failure of character."-The practical principle that you need to "do what you want to become." Many of the ubiquitous resources for leadership development focus on equipping driven executives with the tools and techniques to accomplish the vision and goals of their organizations. While necessary, this is frequently insufficient to bring about lasting positive change and accomplishment in the life of the organization, team members and perhaps most importantly and unappreciated, the life and character of the leader. The "unexamined" life of the leader may lead to goals and methods that while successful in the short run may be revealed as harmful or destructive to all with the passing of time. The theoretical premise that failure of leadership is first a failure of character is authenticated by history and the fact that virtue is the value that is most frequently and forcefully tested in the public square as well as the private life of the leader. The acknowledgement and understanding of this premise make this book self-selecting for those willing to take this "road less traveled" in leadership but I believe will reap untold rewards personally as professionally. The practical principle that you "do what you want to be" is fleshed out well with exercises that lead to habits that are proven and foundational to becoming a great leader. Sometime in our early twenties we are all leading (influencing) somebody (kids/family, friends, employees etc.) and someone is watching.....all the time. Congruency and coherence in our behavior is the "coin of the realm" for authentic leadership and can't be faked or hidden. It is frequently on display as we are called upon to manage the moment or crisis de jour. The development and consistent display of worthy behavior is only possible by training beginning with the small things-our habits. Humble confidence of the leader and by the led is exclusively acquired by sustained performance-particularly under pressure. The Andersons' excel here in supporting their message through encouraging, relevant and practical stories of experiences garnered in different but connected arenas over many years. I particularly enjoyed and appreciated the historical perspective and references as well as the practical approach taken for development. This is a great book that I commend highly and without reservation to aspiring leaders of all ages. Bravo Andersons! Well written and most importantly.....well lived!

While many books focus on developing managerial competencies, most leadership failures are the result of a failure in character, not a failure in competence. But, just like how you don't get in shape by reading a fitness magazine, you don't become a Leader of Character by reading a book on Character. You have to DO what you want to BE! *Leaders of Character* is a "workout plan" designed to develop six Habits of Character by providing small, daily exercises that strengthen your character muscles for the bigger character tests all leaders face.

"Wow! What a book - in fact, THE book that should be on every modern leader's desk...I promise you'll be writing in the margins and highlighting pages as you reflect on the habits you need to change." - Jeb Blount, best selling author of *People Follow You*. "Becoming a Leader of Character is an uncomplicated approach to developing a leader's most important leadership tool - character." - Joe DePinto, President and CEO, 7-Eleven Inc. "Breaking away from the

numbing array of authors dealing with character and leadership, the Andersons - father and son - not only define what character is and show why it is essential in leaders, they also describe how it is developed." - Lieutenant General David Palmer, USA Retired, Former Superintendent, United States Military Academy at West Point "When fresh voices put a new perspective on something and still make it accessible to all of us, I stop and pay attention." - Karen Dillon, former Editor of the Harvard Business and author of New York Times best-seller *How Will You Measure Your Life*. About the Author Excerpt. copy; Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. There is a crisis of leadership in the world today. That may not be news to you. All you have to do is read a newspaper, watch the nightly news, or scan the Internet to see that the lack of good leadership is one of the central problems in our world. Yet, books on leadership abound. So why this book? Why another book on leadership? Our reason is this: the book you hold in your hands is a different type of leadership book. We have read many of the books that are out there on leadership and watched as the crisis in leadership in all parts of our culture has continued to grow. We realize that plenty of people are devoting themselves to stopping this deterioration in leadership. They have written books and produced leadership seminars, claiming to have the answers for changing leaders. These books and seminars cover management techniques, personality traits, building trust, building teams, and improving coaching for performance. These approaches are not bad, but we believe they miss the root cause of the issue. We believe the majority of the leadership offerings available are treating the symptoms of the leadership crisis and not the underlying disease. Our book is here to help all of us who are motivated and ready to treat that disease. We Have a Sick Patient? and the Patient Is Not Getting Better Most of the leadership books and seminars available are synonymous to giving the patient Robitussin; to control a cough. That is not a bad idea in and of itself. We can even argue which cough medicine may work best at controlling the cough. But the issue we face is not really the cough. What we are dealing with is PNEUMONIA! The Robitussin; may help control the cough in the short-term, but the patient is not going to get better. Corporations spend \$50 billion a year on leadership training and development and that number continues to grow. There are more leadership books than ever available for any aspiring or current leader to read. But leaders are not getting better. In a survey of over 14,000 leaders and HR professionals conducted every two years since 2009, Development Dimensions International (DDI) found that the effectiveness of leaders in business has not improved from 2009 to 2015. In fact, despite the increase in spending on leadership development, only 1 in 3 people believe they received value from the leadership training they got at work. Plus, only 15 percent of leaders in the survey rated their company's leadership bench strength as "high"; in 2015. Even that was a decline from 18 percent in 2011. The results are in: What we are doing to develop leaders is not working! We are treating the symptoms and ignoring the disease. One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Let's stop treating a pneumonia patient with cough medicine! Let's treat the underlying cause of the cough and the other symptoms that go with this disease. In leadership, the symptoms may be trust, poor communication, goal setting, employee turnover, coaching skills, or dysfunctional teams. But the underlying disease, the main issue that does not get adequately addressed, is CHARACTER. We are practicing leadership and developing leaders without an adequate consideration for character. To change our own results and to change the results of leadership development books and seminars, character must be at the foundation of every effort, or else we will keep missing the underlying cause of 90 percent of all our leadership woes. We believe that the Habits of Character that determine your strength of character as well as ours flow from two critical habits: courage and humility. Without courage and humility, the other critical habits we unpack in this book - integrity, duty, selflessness, and positivity - will continue to be well-meaning platitudes instead of character-changing behaviors. Simple Truths Simply Presented If you are like most leaders, you are overwhelmed with the demands of work and home life. We are not delusional and believe you have hours upon hours to wade through an academic treatise on leadership. So we did not write one. This book is designed so you can read a chapter and put it down. There is a free online character assessment available at ([URL](#)) so you can evaluate which chapters you want to dig into and which ones you can read once and move forward. Or, you can read our book straight through on a long weekend and then return to the chapters you want to dwell in. We also have reflective questions for you to contemplate at the beginning of each chapter to help you focus on the topic at hand; you could spend a short time or a long time ruminating over those. Whatever works for you!