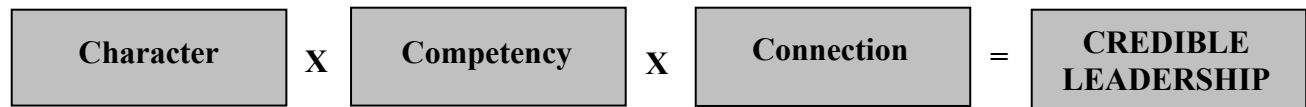


FAILED RELATIONSHIPS = FAILED LEADERSHIP

⁷²And David *shepherded* them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them” (Psalm 78:72).



Minimally, leadership is about influencing *people*. No people, no followers, no leadership!
Leadership requires both *results* and *relationships*.

FORTY WAYS TO FAIL WITH PEOPLE

1. Are you *two-faced*?
“Blessings are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence” (Pro. 10:6).
2. Do you *drop the ball* when people are relying on you?
“Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him” (Pro. 10:26).
3. Can you *not keep a secret*?
“Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered” (Pro. 11:13).
4. Are you a *selfish* person?
“The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it” (Pro. 11:26).
5. Are you *pompous*?
“Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread” (Pro. 12:9).
6. Are you *overly sensitive*?
“The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult” (Pro. 12:16).
7. Do you *say things to cut someone off at the knees*?
“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing” (Pro. 12:18).
8. Do you *give your opinion before people ask*?
“A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly” (Pro. 12:23).
9. Are you an *inflexible, controlling perfectionist*?
“Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox” (Pro. 14:4).

10. Do you have trouble *admitting you're wrong*?
“The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving”
(Pro. 14:8).
11. Are you *sarcastic*?
“Fools mock at the guilt offering, but the upright enjoy acceptance” (Pro. 14:9).
12. Do you *raise your voice*?
“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” (Pro. 15:1).
13. Are you a *pessimist*?
“All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast”
(Pro. 15:15).
14. Are you *arrogant*?
“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro. 16:18).
15. Do you have a *critical spirit*?
“The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases
persuasiveness” (Pro. 16:21).
16. Do you *make fun of other people*?
“Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go
unpunished” (Pro. 17:5).
17. Do you run *hot and cold in relationships*?
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity” (Pro. 17:17).
18. Are you a *loner*?
“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound
judgment” (Pro. 18:1).
19. Are you *inconsiderate*?
“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound
judgment” (Pro. 18:1).
20. Are you a *bad listener*?
“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame” (Pro. 18:13).
21. Do you *explode when you get mad*?
“A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars
of a castle” (Pro. 18:19).
22. Are you *rude*?
“The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly. A word fitly spoken is like apples
of gold in a setting of silver” (Pro. 18:23; 25:11).
23. Are you a *liar*?
“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape”
(Pro. 19:5).

24. Do you have *uncontrolled anger*?
“A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again” (Pro. 19:19).
25. Are you *unforgiving*?
“It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling” (Pro. 20:3).
26. Are you *lazy*?
“The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing” (Pro. 20:4).
27. Do you *use other people*?
“When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food” (Pro. 23:1-3).
28. Are you *argumentative*?
“Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame...” (Pro. 25:8).
29. Do you *make false promises*?
“Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give” (Pro. 25:14).
30. Are you *codependent*?
“If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it. Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor’s house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you” (Pro. 25:16-17).
31. Are you *unsympathetic or unfeeling*?
“Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda” (Pro. 25:20).
32. Do you *slander others*?
“The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks” (Pro. 25:23).
33. Are you *self-centered*?
“It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one’s own glory” (Pro. 25:27).
34. Do you *always think you are right*?
“The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly” (Pro. 26:16).
35. Are you *jealous*?
“Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy...” (Pro. 27:4).
36. Are you *cold*?
“Better is open rebuke than hidden love” (Pro. 27:5).

37. Are you an *insensitive person*?

“Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing” (Pro. 27:14).

38. Are you *too blunt*?

“A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back” (Pro. 29:11).

39. Are you a *mooch*?

“The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, ‘Enough’” (Pro. 30:15).

40. Do you have a *problem with authority*?

“The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures” (Pro. 30:17).

Source: “The 12 Essentials of Godly Success—Biblical Success to a Life Well Lived” by Tommy Nelson (Ch. 2).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How important is it for a leader to build quality relationships with people?
2. Which of these negative relational qualities bother you most in another person? Why do you think that is?
3. What three questions hit home with you? Pick one and explain why.