

Abel's Book Provides 'Checklist' For All: CEO's To Boy Scouts To Parents

Among the many things Dick Abel, the former director of Air Force Public Affairs, has been during his lifetime are football player, coach, foundation executive, general, husband, father, and grandfather. But, when Dick started his Air Force career he was a pilot... and pilots use checklists to do things right.

His book, *The DNA of Leadership*, published by Tate Publishing & Enterprises, is a checklist anyone can use to guide their lives. Reading it can be a real thought provoker about who you REALLY are.

Like the checklists pilots use, it is concise - 115 pages; easy to read, and to the point. And, just like the cockpit checklists all aircraft have, it is aimed at keeping readers out of trouble by guiding them through a self-evaluating process. That process encourages them to develop character traits needed to be honest in dealing with everyone they meet in life from their families to their business associates.

Dick points out that our character is the DNA of who we are in our relationships and in dealing with others. "Leadership

is the outward expression of who we are," he states. "Your image is who you want people to think you are; your reputation is who people think you are; and your character is who you 'REALLY' are." He posits the key to effective leadership is knowing who you really are and being the same person to all you come in contact with, whether they are those who work for you - your subordinates; those you work for - your superiors; your friends, or your family.

Too many people

look at themselves as 'managers,' equating management with leadership. "We lead people and manage resources. There is a very clear distinction between the two," Dick points out. We have to serve and respect all the people we come in contact with, even those who work for us, or we for them. It also includes our friends and family. "When we try to manage people, we ultimately fail. You've seen it happen. When you come upon a leader interested in his people, that's when positive changes occur. Managers must also be leaders if they are to be successful and need to realize the difference between managing and leading," he states. "Our challenge is to know the right thing to do, do the right thing, and do it for the right reason... We suffer from the pursuit of comfort rather than conviction - of accommodation rather than truth - of a pleasant life rather than a meaningful life. To lead and serve, one must be trustworthy and committed to the truth."

Being a person of conviction and good character is the key to effective leadership. Check yourself out against the 18 characteristics needed to be a leader.

* Get your copy of *The DNA of Leadership* by going to LIAAP.com, Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or TatePublishing.com.

