

# Leading With Compassion

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*"Leadership is about having empathy. It is about having the ability to relate to and connect with people for the purpose of inspiring and empowering their lives."*-Oprah Winfrey. Being compassionate means to be sympathetic for others misfortunes. Being a good leader means to be understanding. Being a compassionate leader means to have empathy and be understanding of others.

First of all, a compassionate leader has to understand how others learn. For example, good leadership means to give perception about others methods of operating, even if what they are doing doesn't make sense. For example, if you are trying to teach someone something and they are struggling, you cannot get frustrated and mad at them. You have to remember that everybody is different. Good leadership means to acknowledge someone's strengths and weaknesses. You can't help someone without knowing what they're good at and what they need help with. As you can see, to be a compassionate leader means to be an understanding person.

Secondly, leading with compassion means to be patient, tolerant, and calm. A good leader knows how to be patient with others. For example, if you are trying to tutor someone and they keep talking about it, you need to listen first. Habit 5 in the 7 habits of highly effective people is "*Seek first to understand, then to be understood.*" -Steven Covey. Similarly, a compassionate leader has to be able to help someone through tough times. When you lead, you have to be calm, or whoever you are trying to help will get frustrated and then you won't know what's going on. Furthermore, compassionate leaders have to be tolerant. If someone is doing something that you don't like, you have to calmly address them, and not get enraged. Therefore, leading with compassion means to be patient, tolerant, and calm.

Lastly, a compassionate leader must be kind. Disrespectful leaders aren't respected. For example, if you are the leader of a club and you don't give them a say in anything, nobody is going to join the club again. If you don't take other people's feelings into consideration, then you are no leader at all. Compassionate leaders must be caring and affectionate because spreading kindness is what really helps people. Kindness is such a crucial role in good leadership, because it builds trusts and makes people happy. As you can see, a compassionate leader must spread kindness.

In conclusion, compassionate leaders have to use empathy for others by understanding them, being patient with them, and being kind to them. Leadership is important because when we know we can trust each other, it lifts a heavy burden off all of us. Therefore, leading with compassion means to use empathy in many ways.