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There are hundreds of excellent techniques or rules people follow when leading others. However, there are eight universal laws very essential to success of leaders everywhere. Although these eight laws are simple, even one of them can make the difference between the success and failure in any project, objective or mission. You can often make mistakes as a leader and still end up succeeding, but if you violate these universal laws, you will probably fail, even if you are at first successful. No one can guarantee success, because other factors might override anything a leader may be able to do, but there is no question that if you follow these universal leadership laws, your chances of success are much increased. If you're a leader, try your best to adhere to these eight laws:

1. *Integrity first.* People can sometimes forgive a leader for incompetence, ignorance, insecurity or bad manners. But they will not forgive him or her for lack of integrity. When leaders say one thing and do another, they lose the confidence and trust of their followers.

2. *Know your stuff.* Master the knowledge necessary for a quality

performance as a leader. Management expert Peter Drucker wrote: “Leadership rests on being able to do something others cannot do at all or find difficult to do.”

3. *Declare your expectations.* Give followers guidelines to follow in accomplishing a mission, objectives, or tasks. This alleviates confusion and can prevent sub-par efforts.

4. *Show uncommon commitment.* If leaders aren't truly committed, neither will anyone else be (with the exception of the unique followers who are self-motivated to succeed no matter who is at their helm). Be totally committed to your cause.

5. *Expect positive results.* No leader can be negative and succeed. Do your best to remain upbeat as appropriate and keep encouraging others to strive to succeed. Expect to achieve goals and meet standards. Expect to win!

6. *Take care of people.* When followers and associates are taken care of they will, in turn, take care of their leader. This is very beneficial during times of struggle, emergency, or utmost need. Be sure people have the tools they need to succeed and be sure they know you care about them. With the right resources and proper care, people will bend over backwards for you when you

most need them to.

7. *Duty before self.* Leaders have a duty to accomplish the mission and a duty to take care of those for whom they are responsible. Addressing a leader's own needs must come only after fulfilling this duty. There's nothing worse than seeing a leader head home for the day while others are knee-deep in muddy waters. If your team is struggling to get something done, you should be right there with them, helping them to overcome any obstacles, distractions, or setbacks.

8. *Get out in front.* It is there, and only there, that the leader gains a full perspective of what's going on. Getting out in front enables you to see, hear, and feel what's happening. This awareness is vital for competent decision making on your behalf.

Lastly, according to Peter Drucker, “A leader, any leader, must be for the benefit of others and not for oneself.” This is what distinguishes true leaders from “misleaders” (toxic leaders who ruin organizations or dictators like Hitler and Stalin).

So study and execute these eight universal laws. Doing so puts you in the best possible position to successfully lead.

~ The End ~