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2. Leadership
3. Tax Breaks
4. Success in Succession
5. Marketing – Get a Hook



Our mission is to provide information and strategies to business owners and managers for improvement in the effectiveness of its business management so that key objectives can be realized.



Leadership: An Owner's Perspective

*By Michael E. Gerber
Chairman and Founder, E-Myth Worldwide*

Yes, you and I have a great deal in common we own our own business.

Which means that you and I have the same demands put upon us. The people who we employ have a special need for us to put everything into perspective for them, in a way only you and I can be expected to do. After all, it's our business. What are those special needs; what do employees expect from a leader? From the owner? From the CEO? From the Boss?

Well here are just a few things I've pulled out of my hat for you to chew on.

Our people expect us to be:

1. Consistent

You and I are almost always inconsistent okay, I am, and I don't know that you are, but having worked with thousands of business owners I can make a pretty educated guess. We've got to understand what the word consistency means. We've got to look at our actions and ask ourselves if they are inconsistent or consistent, and if they are inconsistent, why are they inconsistent, and what can we do about it? And in a world which is consistently inconsistent, how can we build a business which at its heart finds a true measure of consistency in everything it does? Wouldn't that be somewhat of a miracle? Isn't that somehow impossible? Well, yes and no, but that's what a Leader has to do. Find consistency in an inconsistent world. And reproduce it.

CFO Plus, LLC

Ted Hofmann
Principal/Senior Consultant

John Morre
Principal/Senior Consultant

Linda Panichelli
Principal/Senior Tax Consultant

1450 Grant Avenue, Suite 102
Novato, CA 94945-3142

Home Office: 415-898-7879
Toll Free 866-CFO-PLUS or
866-236-7587
Fax: 415-898-0229

Email: thofmann@cfoplus.net
jmorre@cfoplus.net
lpnichelli@cfoplus.net

Web: www.cfoplus.net

2. Determined

Yes, we're expected to be determined. No matter what you believe to the contrary, your people do want you to show them the evidence of your determination. Your determination to do what? To do what you say you're determined to do. I think of the extraordinary leader, George Patton, or even the exceptional leader, Jack Kennedy. Patton not only said what he was going to do, he was absolutely positively determined, come hell or high water, to do it. Most people would say that he was a great Leader because of his achievements, but that isn't necessarily true. Many Great leaders have failed to do what they were determined to do, but because their determination was so alive, so clearly, passionately, convincingly true, whether they succeeded or not, they were a world-class leader. (Of course if you pull off what you're determined to do, it's a great plus.) Kennedy was determined to go to the moon. Churchill was determined to save the British Empire from the clutches of Germany. These men were determined. They were Leaders. Everyone, when facing the stark reality of an impossible situation, needs someone who is determined to raise their level of determination too.

3. Passionate

Yes, we've got to be Consistent, Determined and Passionate. Which means we've got to care about what we do, deeply, lovingly, devotedly, compellingly, importantly...we've got to have a fever in our minds and hearts for the outcome, and for the process, and for the very fiber of what it is we intend to do and how it is we intend to do it and what difference that will make to everyone who comes into contact with our company, and our people. But most important of all, think about the impact it will have for everyone who experiences our idea of a company, our idea of people, our idea of the importance of it all and the impact it will have on the world around it. Leaders are passionate people. They are not rational models of perfection, but they are consistent, determined, and passionate. And most of all, they take everything they do seriously. Seriously, as if it were a matter of life and death.

And that's why people listen to them. And that's why people take them seriously. And that's what it means...at least at random...and at least for a start...for you and I, as owners of our own business, to be Leaders.

Any thoughts on this subject? Just pass them on to me.

Thanks for your time and attention. ■

Michael Gerber is chairman and founder of E-Myth Worldwide. He reminds you that the opportunity is to go to work ON your life not IN it, and in the process to experience the sweet, radiant, extraordinary joy of the fully-lived moment. His Web site is www.emyth.com.