



Key Take-Aways

#1 – You need to *have* **character**, not *be* one.

#2 – You need to find your **charisma**; it's how others are attracted to your vision.

#3 – You must focus on what you put *into* **relationships**; not what you get out.

#4 – You need to be secure in who you are; **confidence** blasts away limiting personality traits.

#5 – You must cultivate your **self-discipline** to achieve effective leadership.

#6 – You must seize **responsibility** like a man whose hair is on fire seize' s water to extinguish it!

"You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one."

~ **James A. Froude**

The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader

John C. Maxwell

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This book is a quick read but packed-full of takeaways. 21 to be specific! While all 21 qualities Maxwell covers are worth integrating into your leadership, there are six that are essential. Without these vital six pillars, your leadership effectiveness will be seriously limited. To help get the reader thinking about their level of proficiency in each of these qualities, Maxwell provides a ton of great, insightful questions that will open you up to the leader you truly are and where you need to focus your development. After all, Maxwell's name is synonymous with leadership!

It Starts with Character. This is the foundation of every person's leadership, upon which

What makes people want to follow a leader? The answer lies in the character qualities of the individual person. If you take the time to look at yourself deep down, would you find the qualities needed to live out your boldest dreams? ~ John Maxwell

every other quality is built. Like a building, if the foundation is weak, overtime cracks will appear and eventually...collapse. The leader with strong character has a strong sense of honesty, trust, and straightforwardness. They also have developed the capacity to take-on adversity and challenge, the "friction of life". A person's capacity to address challenge and adversity tells everyone they need to know about you as a leader.

Getting Along. Character and charisma are vital qualities of a leader. An often hidden quality of immense importance is *relationships*. A leader without followers is a loner. The quality of the relationships you develop with your team members, with your peers, and with your boss will ultimately shape and then define the quality and the size of the outcomes you are able to achieve.

Praesto Presto! "Be responsible for". This is *what* leadership is all about – being responsible for something. It might be a project, a design, or the well-being of your family. Leaders don't simply end up with responsibility, they seize it. In so doing, they take

control of shaping the future they envision.

Bottom Line: Twenty-one qualities probably seem like a lot to ponder and master. Perhaps. But taking responsibility today with the confidence that you'll succeed in developing each quality within you will set you on a path towards leadership excellence. And that's worth it for your team, for your organization, and for you.