

7 GETTING ALONG

In this chapter, we will talk about how to deal with the different types of people you might encounter as a part of your leadership role. We can't all be best friends, but we can all get along!

The ability to get along with others on the leadership team is an important prerequisite for leadership and for life. This is not to say that all leaders have to be gregarious and outgoing people who enjoy being in the presence of others—but that they are secure enough in their role and views to be comfortable with different opinions and leadership styles.

Power struggles are not uncommon among leadership teams. Grounded in ego and fear, people seek to place themselves in dominant roles to the benefit of themselves and the detriment of others. This “me” mentality is as destructive of a disease as any that can afflict a group. Your peers are often caught up in the pettiness and choose sides, escalating and widening the conflict. Just remember, **your value comes not from your strength but from your service!**

INTROVERTS AND EXTROVERTS

History is full of many powerful and influential leaders who were introverts, shying away from the attention that came with their positions. They measured their worth by the work they were able to do and the people they were able to help rather than the attention they were able to garner. History looks kindly on those who forsake the spotlight in the name of good deeds.

But some jobs come with the spotlight, which makes them more or less attractive to certain leaders. For some, the spotlight of leadership is easier to deal with. Keep in mind that some jobs require fewer people skills and less interaction than others. That is not to say that you can lead through email or text, but it is important to know if your responsibilities as a leader match your persona.

For example, jobs such as a music librarian or group webmaster require less student interaction than jobs like a drum major or section leader. Concertmaster could very well be an introvert, speaking through their music, while the morale officer is the life of the party. While managing both tasks and relationships is key to being an effective leader, some jobs require less management than others.

There will be disagreements.

The ability to get along is an important part of being an effective leader and leadership team. After all, it is people that you are leading (yes, drummers count as people). This does not mean that each and every member of the leadership team must be your best friend, but that **your relationship does not impede your ability to effectively lead.**

Key Takeaway

Although it is impossible to love every person all of the time, know that the more your peers like and trust you, the more they will want to be led by you. Also, the more your director likes and trusts you, the more they will let you lead. Be likable and trustable in the face of conflict!