

# LESSON IN LIVING

## LEARN TO LEAD

Elma Allen Milano

Being a leader does not require that one be a mental genius. It has little to do with being wealthy. It rarely is inherited. And, though we may have fame in a particular field of endeavor, this still may not qualify us to become a leader in other areas. Because no two people are exactly alike, each leader may have his own style. My hairdresser said he had served under two leaders, one presided with love like a gentle giant, and the other led like a lion. Guess which one he enjoyed most? Let us examine some qualities usually shared by those who lead us aright:

### HABITS OF A SUCCESSFUL LEADER

*Cares for and loves his followers.*  
*Is visionary and able to focus and achieve goals.*  
*Has mastered the art of skillful communication.*  
*Establishes a relationship of trust in those he leads.*  
*Is aware of details and is well organized.*  
*Is positive thinking and acting.*  
*Has self-mastery; remains calm and in control in times of crisis.*  
*Steers a steady course and is dependable.*  
*Maintains an air of confidence and wisdom.*  
*Has high standards and lives them.*  
*Knows not only how to begin projects but also sees them to completion.*  
*Is flexible and able to adjust if necessary.*  
*Knows that preparation precedes power and performance.*  
*Arrives early and stays late when necessary*  
*Counsels with, and respects the opinions of others.*  
*Learns to delegate; is able to bring out the best in others.*  
*Practices complete honesty in all facets of life.*  
*Seeks superior friendships and yet is kind to those less fortunate.*  
*Makes excellent use of time and means.*  
*Honors those who have gone before while avoiding the pitfalls of the past.*  
*Is humble and acknowledges dependence on a Higher Power.*  
*Knows that as followers rise, so does the leader.*  
*Enjoys working hard and being a leader.*

### REMEMBER

*The cemetery is filled with leaders who thought they were indispensable.*  
*Pillars are kept upright by the load they bear.*

*This was written in 2006 when Elma was 86-years-old. The entire Lesson in Living series is on [lintonmilano.com](http://lintonmilano.com).*