THAT THING CALLED LEADERSHIP!

Leadership is a tricky thing. It doesn't happen because one has the most impressive title — President, Executive Director, CEO, Mom, Elder, or Senior Pastor. The most impressive office does not a leader make — corner with glass, monster desk, art on display. Leadership is subtler. And it is essential to success.

A real leader creates a culture of leadership. It’s not cute shirts or chants. It’s a subtle, intangible "feel" that operates at a level below the surface. Yet everybody entering that culture senses it and is energized by it.

It happens in families. Mom and Dad make it a safe, nurturing place, and the kids are seen to smile and heard to laugh often. There are lots of hugs. Home is the favorite place for every single one of the adults and children.

It happens in businesses. The stimulus to achievement isn't criticism or threats. Good leaders notice and affirm the positive contributions of everyone from top sales person to new support person to maintenance staff.

It happens in churches. Under Christ as its head, a community of faith functions so that every part is valued. There is a palpable atmosphere that even visitors sense when they walk through the door. The vibes are positive.

Leadership doesn't bully and try to make others yield. It lifts heads and builds confidence so people can perform well. It creates a healthy culture where every person feels valued and wants to contribute to the success of the whole.

Good leaders don't build cult followers. They build confident people.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:12-13 NLT)