

DAVE ANDERSON

How *to* Lead *by* THE BOOK

*Proverbs, Parables, and Principles
to Tackle Your Toughest
Business Challenges*

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Praise for How to Lead by THE BOOK

"I just read *How to Lead by THE BOOK* and I can clearly understand why my father, Zig Ziglar, endorsed Dave Anderson years ago. Dave's direct, no-nonsense approach to applying Biblical principles to leadership skills is inspiring, encouraging, and literally includes Biblical proportions of leadership wisdom to guide even the most inexperienced leader.

This book should be the foundation, the starting place, for anyone who wants to lead with wisdom far beyond their personal experience.

I couldn't stop highlighting! The leadership wisdom in this book graced every page and gave me new insight about what it truly means to lead.

The whole time I was reading I kept thinking about my father and how much he would love the principles and the stories Dave used to drive home his points. This book has solid, applicable, information that will change your life and the way you lead!"

—Julie Ziglar Norman

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*Proverbs, Parables, and
Principles to Tackle Your
Toughest Business Challenges*

DAVE ANDERSON



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This book is dedicated to Jesus Christ and His persecuted followers in “closed” countries throughout the world, and to exceptional organizations like EQUIP, 222 Ministries, and Voice of the Martyrs, who serve and support them.

Preface

Every so often, someone comes along and claims that for contemporary times, we need a fresh way to express the Bible's message. Usually that "new" way de-emphasizes Jesus, denies His deity, doubts His resurrection, dangles multiple paths to heaven, disregards biblical inerrancy, disputes the Bible's relevance, and defines grace as license to sin. If you bought this book in hopes of reading any of this nonsense, then you have made a mistake! And, to exact an adequate penalty for pursuing such foolishness, we are keeping your money!

There is no "new" way that I can present the Bible or improve upon its message. The power in its words and truth are unquestionable and unchanging. What I hope to accomplish in *How to Lead by THE BOOK* is to make you more aware of timeless principles that have long existed and to suggest how you can apply them, in practical ways, to improve your life, the lives of others, your business, and our bruised, battered, and beleaguered world. You cannot accomplish this by sitting on the sidelines, reacting to the world around you; rather, you must lead. In this irreverent and irreligious age, leading by biblical principles has never been more necessary or needed.

It is likely that if you are reading this book, you are both a Christian and a leader. Without question, these are complex times for you. Your sense of decency has been besieged by an array of antagonists: indifferent and entitled workers, a generation that dismisses behavioral absolutes, courts and governments that treat religion hostilely and business as an enemy. In the event that some preoccupation has shielded you from observing society's free fall into moral bankruptcy, please take note—as society goes, so go institutions, both for-profit and nonprofit. For starters, consider these eight grim evidences of accelerated cultural decline. Then

contemplate the six consequences these corrupt trends will create within your organization.

1. Our national character and reputation are being reduced to the ridiculous. With mendacious media representatives as their wingmen, radical factions in education and government are revising history. They aspire to convince you that our Founding Fathers were godless bumpkins and narcissists, whose original intent was to protect the right to terminate pregnancies, make porn more accessible and prayer less visible, and to reshape marriage to legitimize a behavior God has called abominable. To fully appreciate this particular affront, it helps to understand that the definition of an *abomination* is “abhorrent, disgusting, loathsome, vicious, and vile.” Weighing this assault on decency, the words of sixteenth-century theologian John Calvin describe today’s age in terms that are hauntingly precise:

For it is the summit of all evils, when the sinner is so void of shame, that he is pleased with his own vices, and will not bear them to be reprov’d, and also cherishes them in others by his consent and approbation. . . . For he who is ashamed is yet healable; but when such impudence is contracted through a sinful habit, that vices, and not virtues, please us, and are approved, there is no more hope of reformation. In Romans, Paul sought to condemn something more grievous and more wicked than the very doing of vices: and that is the casting away of all shame and undertaking the patronage of vices in opposition to the righteousness of God. [Calvin 2005, 19:83]

2. “One nation under God” has become farcical, as activist judges give atheists and agnostics veto power over those who believe in God and support their quest to scrub all evidence of religion from the public square.

3. The escalation of secularism has subordinated God's law to human whims. As a result, moral boundaries have shrunk to the point where the unthinkable has become "normal." Behaviors once publicly decried are now portrayed as acceptable, and those who speak out against them are labeled as bigots.

4. Moral failures among celebrities in sports, business, politics, religion, and even within ordinary families have lost their power to shock us. In fact, it can be argued that one of the greatest tragedies of our time is that we have lost our sense of shame.

5. Hollywood has accelerated its onslaught against God, country, and family values. Television and motion pictures deride Christians, parodying and pillorying them as stiff, fanatical, joyless, peculiar, and unthinking. Conversely, criminals, deviants, atheists, and addicts are represented as cool, witty, intelligent, victimized, free-spirited, and enlightened.

6. To exacerbate the moral confusion, high-profile God mockers and false teachers run rampant among the ranks of best-selling authors, acclaimed comics, entertainment celebrities, church leaders, and business tycoons. For instance:

- A high-profile media mogul claims that Christianity is a "religion for losers" and labeled his employees as "Jesus freaks" for observing Ash Wednesday.
- A pastor disgraces Christianity by leading purveyors of hate in nationwide protests brandishing signs declaring: "God hates homosexuals" and "Thank God for dead soldiers."
- A mega-best-selling book succeeds at duping millions—including Christians—into thinking that the *Law of Attraction* can deliver to them what God cannot or will not.

- A well-respected talk show host and professed Christian declares there are many more paths to God than Christianity. This generous patron of pie-in-the-sky spirituality sponsors a yearlong “course in miracles” that promotes the opposite of what the Bible calls truth, leading millions astray and into potential destruction with blasphemies like, “There is no sin,” “My salvation comes from me,” and that “a slain Christ has no meaning.”

This pervasiveness of nefarious New Age nonsense has swayed throngs to embrace hellish notions in order to attain success and personal fulfillment. The apostle Paul’s 2,000-year-old warning seems designed acutely for our age: *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons . . .”* (1 Tim. 4:1).

7. Political correctness has erased all middle ground. You are either pro-choice or a chauvinist, pro-gay rights or homophobic, in favor of affirmative action or a racist, a left coast kook or a right-wing nut. In fact, guard your tongue, because your opinion can as easily be considered hate speech as free speech. Speaking of speech, it is getting uglier. Politicians, pundits, and even ordinary people who disagree about an issue would rather demonize those on the other side than debate them; they’d rather make the conversation personal than talk about principles.

8. The world’s acceptance of sinful behaviors has infected religious institutions, some of which celebrate and sanction sinful lifestyles from their leaders under the guise of being loving. Through a shameful distortion of Scripture, fringe factions exploit the love Jesus has for sinners as grounds to assert that He accepts their sins. These divisive strays spin God’s Word to appease their carnal appetites, even though church discipline calls for

putting out, for the purpose of restoration, those who openly and persistently engage in behavioral turpitude rather than accepting them. Talk about creating confusion, division, and unraveling the moral bounds that have girded civilized culture! When the church itself sanitizes, champions, and validates sin, it surrenders its moral authority as a light unto the world and becomes an enabler to the powers of darkness it was commissioned to oppose.

Like a perfect storm, temporal coalitions in media, education, religion, courts, and government have converged to mock, malign, and mold Scripture to fit and submit to society, rather than using the Bible as a blueprint to shape the culture. By emasculating the Bible to accommodate transgressions, these forces declare that culture has more authority than God's Word, and since culture is determined by human ideas, humans become superior to God.

Not long ago, this contemporary tide to obscure our national memory of its Christian roots would have been unthinkable. However, the forces conspiring to enfeeble our culture seem unwilling to rest until they have exiled God from sight, expunged Him from speech, and supplanted Him with the "gods of this age." This unholy alliance includes, but is not limited to, your school board, legislatures, courts, and federal officials who pine to impose the impious values by which you are to live.

How do the preceding eight cultural trends brutalize your ability to lead effectively? Far more than you might imagine, because trends in organizations have historically followed society's trends. Thus, the ensuing moral collapse of culture impairs your enterprise as follows:

1. Employees are more inclined to emulate the selfish, hedonistic, unethical, and narcissistic behaviors that are ubiquitous and accepted as "normal" in society—and to do so while they are on the job.

2. These behaviors diminish morale, damage your brand, debilitate productivity, and denigrate concern for teammates and customers alike.

3. This in turn increases the likelihood that consumers will develop a greater aversion to dealing with people and buy more online, shopping your prices until your products are commoditized and your margins trivialized.

4. The downward spiral of society's collective character will entice anyone with marginal morals to accelerate the nobbling of their organizations through new and shameless degrees of self-interest, fueled by avarice that would make Bernie Madoff blush.

5. Employees with vulnerable value systems are tougher to manage. They do not believe in absolutes, fail to take responsibility, believe that anything goes, are primarily concerned with themselves, and contend that accountability is unfair. From this, you can expect increased turnover, an escalation of hiring and training costs, diminished team morale, and lower customer retention.

6. The new rules and policies you will need to install to prevent, police, and punish iniquitous behaviors will consume untold time, energy, and financial resources.

These six consequences reflect but a pittance of the hurt you will endure as collateral damage from today's regressive value system cascades and infects all aspects of business and society. As governments, courts, educators, and churches bum-rush Scripture and dumb down decency in surrender to tolerance, a population conditioned to thumb its nose at God will sink further into the emptiness of secularism. With pitiable values steeped in hedonism, a surging sector will worship at the altar of selfishness, self-indulgence, and ease, engaging in anything, and falling for everything, because they stand for nothing.

As you endure the deterioration of individual character and degradation of corporate ethics, there are important questions to consider:

- How can you succeed in building and sustaining a character-driven culture in your organization?
- How do you buck the trend toward hypertolerance and “anything goes” that has the potential to create a culture of chaos in every entity in which you play a role (home, work, community, or church)?
- Is it any wonder that leaders who endeavor to make a positive difference in their business, church, community, government, and family become frustrated, frightened, and fraught with stress when facing such formidable foes?
- Where do you turn for straight answers, without the spin and stench of political correctness?
- Which success principles are still absolute and unimpeachable despite the times, circumstances, and the tug of cultural currents, and where can you find them?

I believe you know the answer to the last question, and that is why you have invested in this book. You want it to reaffirm what you intuitively, if not wholeheartedly, assert to be true: God’s Word remains authoritative and relevant, it still brings life, and it is futile to waste time chasing leadership fads, gurus, “secrets,” or flavors of the month that offer shortcuts, substitutes, or alternatives to proven practices rooted in biblical truth.

Perhaps you have even experimented with New Age approaches to spirituality, leadership, or personal development in your own organization and are ready to return to real truth. If so, be heartened by the words of C. S. Lewis: “We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turn, then to go forward does not get you any

nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man” (Lewis 2001, 28).

The best book ever created on leadership principles, the Bible, was inspired by God, is inerrant in nature, and offers us nothing less than an incomparable slice of God’s own mind! The Bible packs a punch with sufficient power to overcome any prejudiced media, hostile government, cowardly court, atheist’s rant, secular assault, or false teacher’s philosophy. In an age where we are encouraged to judge and discriminate against nothing and to tolerate everything except intolerance, principled men and women should be steadied by the fact that the Bible promotes the intolerance of numerous behaviors, and it is brutally judgmental and discriminatory wherever unholy ethos are concerned. Try John 3:18 and Acts 4:12, for example. Frankly, your character as a leader is largely defined by what you *do* judge as wrong and discriminate against and by what you *will not* tolerate.

Despite the Bible’s potential to reshape your business, life, and society, it cannot help you if you do not know, accept, and apply its truths. However, before you can employ the Bible, you must first understand what it says about how to live and lead according to God’s plan. That is where I endeavor to serve as your guide through the chapters of this book. For starters, regardless of your past personal or business behaviors, THE BOOK is rife with promises of grace and redemption: *“Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free”* (John 8:32); *“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Romans 10:13); and *“. . . neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more”* (John 8:11).

My purpose in writing *How to Lead by THE BOOK* is to equip you to live and lead a more robust life, all while you exponentially elevate organizational results. The principles I

present transcend factors like age, education, religion, gender, or political affiliation. While Christians will more readily recognize the New Testament strategies, readers of all faiths will benefit by applying the timeless truths and tenets within these pages.

What is truly exciting is that by using the Bible as your leadership playbook, you have an incredible wealth of wisdom at your disposal. The Protestant Bible is made up of 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses, and 773,692 words! The strategies I present in *How to Lead by THE BOOK* will touch on only a token of what the Bible imparts, but they will more than suffice to transform your life and business as you apply them. You may be familiar with many of the proverbs, parables, and principles that I have included. Whether you have applied and are benefiting from their power may be something else altogether. To this end, I will nudge, cajole, and persuade you to *act* to close the gulf of unfulfilled potential that lies between knowing what to do and actually doing it.

I encourage you to read, *How to Lead by THE BOOK* cover to cover and then to refer to it often as a desk reference. I address 14 of your toughest business challenges in this book, and I conclude with a short chapter called “Closing Thoughts.” I suggest that you search the Bible for additional insights into each of the topics I present. Because of space constraints, I could not possibly list all that the Bible says about each issue. Thus, keep in mind that what I present is the alpha and not the omega.

I introduce each of the 14 challenges in a stand-alone chapter using the following format:

1. A description of the challenge
2. A presentation of “Man’s Wisdom and Ways” for handling the issue
3. An outline of “THE BOOK’s Wisdom and Ways” for meeting the challenge, including precise biblical