

SOME QUALITIES OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP

DISCIPLINE.

For me, every personal problem has its roots in indiscipline of one kind or another.

The truly disciplined are the truly free people in the world, for men are bound by the areas of indiscipline in their lives. Bound by habits, sometimes good ones as well as bad; bound by their feelings, bound by their thoughts, chained sometimes to a cigarette, or to their bed in the morning.

How disciplined are you about the clothes that you wear? The letters that you know you ought to write? The state of your room?

How tidy are your thoughts? - Do you ever day-dream? - Do you ever live in the past or in the future?

How much time do you spend doing non-essentials?

How punctual are you for appointments? for meals? etc.

How disciplined are you about your reading? - How often do you escape into the unreal world of a novel? or a cinema?

How disciplined are you about bed? - Do you always go to bed at the time you should?

Do you always get up at the guided time?

How much time do you waste while dressing or undressing?

How disciplined are your appetites?

Do you ever eat more than you should?

How often do you spend money in an undisciplined and unguided way? - on tobacco? chocolates and other sweets? drink? hobbies, whether they are stamp collecting, beetles or old china?

What control have you over your tongue?

Do you ever talk unwisely or unguardedly?

Do you ever talk too much?

Do you ever talk for the sake of talking?

Do you ever gossip?

Have you learned to listen to the other person and give him your undivided attention?

Do you ever break a confidence?

Do you ever talk negatively? - about the weather? the food? circumstances? other people? situations?

Do you ever repeat other people's criticisms without knowing the facts at first hand?

Are you disciplined about your emotions?

Do you ever get selfishly exuberant? or sentimental?

Do you still live on the level of likes and dislikes?

Do you ever have moods? Do you allow them to determine your conduct?

Have you learned when and how to exercise restraint?

DARE.

How adventurous for God are you?

Are you ever content with a second-best policy?

How often does caution, a desire for orthodoxy, or reputation prevent you from taking adventurous action which you know may be misunderstood?

How daring are you in presenting your message?

Are you ever apologetic?

Do you ever try to soothe the opposition?

Are you ever out merely to win the approval of someone else?

Are you constantly making daring demands on other people?

Do you ever water down the message to make it more acceptable to certain people?

Do you face opposition boldly, unafraid, and undisturbed? - no matter from what source it comes?

Do you ever shrink from facing facts?

Do you ever shrink from facing the world?

How daring are you in the places to which you take this message?

Are you constantly finding yourself in situations in which, if God lets you down you are bound to crash?

Where does your real security really lie? - in a cheque book? in a person? in a home? in a reputation?

What props are you still relying on?

How peacemaking are you in every situation that you find yourself in?

Do you always seize every opportunity for guided witness?

Do you ever temporize or procrastinate with guidance?

IMAGINATION.

- How creative are you in your thinking?
How often do you repeat in parrot fashion the creative thoughts of other people and thereby excuse yourself from the real labor of thinking yourself?
How clearly do you see the possibilities of development in every situation and in every person you meet?
What ruts, grooves, and old moulds of thinking are binding and cramping your mind and imagination?
How much are you bound by your conception of orthodoxy? tradition? by the things that are considered 'done' or 'not done'?
How clearly do you see what really needs to happen in the world?
What would new homes really be like?
What would God controlled businesses really be like?
What revolutionary changes would have to take place in social life? in political life? in industry? and in our national attitudes?
What would you do if you were sent alone into a big city, to set it up for the visit of an International Team a fortnight later?
- What would you do with six newly changed pagans who were left in your care to train, discipline and develop?
How creatively do you think through your witness?
Do you copy other people?
Is your witness always fresh and living? or do you present it in the same way each time, using the same words and phrases?
How much imagination do you use in seeing that a newly changed person is put into touch with the right people, which will insure his maximum development?

RELIABILITY.

- How much can God trust you to see a job of work right through to the very end?
How thoroughly do you think a situation through?
What grip of essential detail have you?
Where are the places in your life that you are slipshod and careless?
Could God trust you with the entire responsibility of running a house-party?
Do you ever loosen your grip and give in when things get difficult and need extra concentration and effort?
Do you ever play truant and decide to take a spiritual holiday?
How much do you depend on the team to keep you on the job?
Are you a self-starter? Or do you have to be cranked?
Do you ever hope that others on the team will not see or hear you?
Can you be trusted to deal adequately with the needs of an individual?
Just how reliable is your work with individuals? - How drastic and lovingly thorough is it?
Does sentimentality, fear, or softness blind you to people's real needs?
If we miss people's needs it means that we cannot be trusted, and it is always due to sin somewhere in us.
Reliability means that absolutely nothing in this world can effect our spiritual steadiness, - neither moods, fears, difficulties, laziness, relaxation, or any temptation.

CAPACITY FOR CARING.

- The whole of the effective work of the Oxford Group is based on deep personal relationships. The measure of our leadership is the measure of our love for people.
How much of yourself do you really give to other people?
How much of your thinking is centered around them, planning how they can grow to a higher spiritual level?
Do you ever get preoccupied with your own thoughts and interests?
How much of your affection is weak and sentimental?
Does love of yourself ever prevent your being challenging, firm and drastic with the sins in the life of a friend? - or do you gloss over their deepest sins for fear that otherwise they might become antagonistic in their attitude toward you?
How patient are you with people?
Do you ever move in too fast? or too slowly?

Are you prepared to lose your friends?
Do you give them up if they decide to break with you?
Do you loosen your grip on them when nothing much seems to be happening?
How deeply are you willing to share?
Is there anything in your life that you are not willing to share under guidance to help a person in need?
How clearly do you see your friends and their specific needs?
Are there any people to whom you are indifferent? of whom you are jealous or critical? about whom you gossip? towards whom you feel superior or inferior?
How sensitive are you to other people? Do you notice when they need rest? affection? discipline? firmness? or fun and relaxation?
How lovingly do you hold them to the very highest that you see for them?
How lovingly do you check them in a positive and not a negative way?
What things do you condone in other people?
Do you always take full responsibility for a person? or do you leave him when he has made a decision, and expect somebody else to do the far more difficult work of training and developing him?
The question "How much do you really love God?" can never be answered in words, but only in the quality of your self-giving action in the lives of your friends.

GOD CONFIDENCE.

How much do you depend on God?
How much of what you do is done through self-effort whether in living or speaking or in trying to change people?
Do you really believe that God can change the world?
Do you really believe that He can change it completely?
Do you really expect your friends to be changed?
How much do you depend on guidance from God? - would you be powerless to move or act without the guidance of God?
Is it your burning conviction that God has the answer to every single problem small and great in the world today? If not what problems do you think He is unable to solve?
What things are you afraid of? Is it poverty? the dark? great heights? your friends? life itself? the past? the future?
Do you ever worry? What about? (The cares of this world are the sins of this world)
Have you ever the conception that in certain jobs of work you are indispensable?
How much of the confidence that you have is self-confidence?
False confidence is shown most typically in those people whose attitude to life is "God is in His heaven so all's right with the world."
That just isn't true, it is simply a refusal to face facts. It is false confidence based on deliberate self-deception. Whatever is not of Faith is sin.

LOYALTY.

If we are going to change the world we shall need to teach the world the true meaning of loyalty. People often talk quite glibly about loyalty to God, and fail to realize the implications towards men which such a loyalty must involve.
Loyalty to God makes utter nonsense unless there goes with it a self-sacrificing loyalty to all those who are living on a life changing basis, obedient to the daily guidance of God.
Loyalty to God means implicit obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all things, in a fellowship of life-changers.
Any disloyalty to those on a life changing basis is a disloyalty to God Himself.

What form does disloyalty take?

(1) Refusal of identification.

Do you say that you are in the Oxford Group yet are constantly refusing to face up to the full challenge to the quality of life for which this fellowship stands?
Do you ever shrink from the full price of identification with the Oxford Group at any time or in any situations?
There is only one answer adequate to the question "Are you in the Oxford Group?" and that is "Yes, I am, why aren't you?"

(2) Refusal to take responsibility.

Do you pull your weight in this work, or are you one of the parasites who feed on the spiritual vitality of the movement?

Do you always share your guidance at team meetings?
Do you ever refuse to take responsibility? and use modesty as an excuse?
Do you make demands on others in the team, and expect them to wait on you hand and foot?

(3) Selfish indiscipline.

Are you ever possessive of your own pet plans, and refuse to check them with a team of people who will not let you down?
Do you ever make unauthorized commitments?
Are you ever a lone wolf, wanting your own little revival in your own way?
Do you accept gladly a checking by another member of the team?
Have you learned to be led?
Are you spiritually ambitious?
Are you one of the spiritually irresponsible who do things carelessly so that somebody else on the team has to spend valuable time picking up the stitches you have dropped?
Do you ever refuse to face up to sin quickly, so that the spiritual power of the whole team suffers?

(4) Personal disloyalty.

Are you ever disloyal to another person on the team?
Do you ever refuse to hold someone up to the highest?
Do you ever criticize another member of the team behind his back?
Are you addicted to spiritual gossip?
Do you cling to points of view that divide?
Do you only share with certain people on the team, and thus subtly divide a team?
I do not think that God can really change and develop us to the full, except through a team of people with whom we are completely identified, in whose fellowship all the corners which stick out of us and spoil our lives can really be rubbed off.