

# Abusive Leadership

## Introduction for teachers

### 1. What does the study of this topic show us about God Himself?

Jesus gave the example of perfect leadership. He was humble, truthful, obedient, righteous and compassionate. He was a servant leader.

### 2. Which scripture passages illustrate this aspect of God?

Matthew 23:11-12 – The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 1-2 – Jesus though King was born in a stable.

John 12:12 – Jesus though King came riding on a donkey.

### 3. How does understanding God in this way change our lives, or make us more like Jesus?

When taking up a leadership position we follow the example of Jesus. Before following a leader we use wise judgment in discernment of Godly or ungodly leadership qualities in others.

Single word answers – Part B:

2. charisma 3. God 4. elite 5. behaviour 6. outsiders 7.loyalty

<http://www.beaconmedia.com.au>

See **Secondary English** for the following:

*Yoga the Truth Revealed* - a good resource for expounding the dangers of cult leadership

[www.rickross.com](http://www.rickross.com) – for attributes of a potentially unsafe group leader.

# Abusive Leadership (Part A)

Name.....

1. A technique to describe something or understand a concept is to analyze its opposite. What are the attributes of a really good coach/leader in sport?
2. Abusive leaders are not just in politics and business; they also emerge in religious / faith-based groups groups. Look up Matthew 7:22-23. One of the key leaders in Jesus' team was toxic—who was he?
3. Paul in the early church encountered leaders who wanted the glory for themselves, set up in competitions with him, and who used the gospel for self-profit. In your opinion, what are the key temptations that church leaders face today?
4. Wives often lie for and defend aggressive husbands and abused children defend their parents. Why do you think people often tenaciously defend a toxic leader?
5. What heart motive changes a person with leadership gifts and/or leadership authority from being an altruistic leader into a self-serving leader?
6. When the devil came to Jesus in the desert he tempted him with three leadership style options, (Matt 4). What were they?

# Start a Cult Kit (Part B)

Name.....

1. Name some famous cult leaders who provide models of toxic leadership.
2. The toxic leader needs a measure of charisma, as well as some superficial charm. They exude self confidence and are good story tellers. They are persuasive.
3. Toxic leaders can be manipulative, clever and possess an ability to lie with coolness and cunning. There is no truth for them; the only truth is what serves their immediate interests.

The toxic leader claims a direct relationship with God and spirit beings. This is special. The leader often claims to speak with Jesus, Buddha or Krishna and other enlightened ones.

In terms of power and authority, what is significant about toxic leaders?

4. The leader makes grand promises and makes his/her followers feel that they are a really important contribution to history. They claim that some massive event is imminent, like the end of the age or the return of Jesus or a huge persecution. This increases a sense of fear, even paranoia in followers. The followers feel like a special elite, being the only humans who really understand the times and the sinister things happening in the world.
5. The leader controls the sexual .....but is often promiscuous secretly him/herself.
6. The toxic leader typecasts .....and humiliates critics within the followers.
7. The toxic leader controls money of followers but doesn't declare his expenses or submit to audit.

The toxic leader is not accountable to anyone, and is beyond criticism. He/she has no sense of shame or guilt and can lack empathy. Extreme loyalty is required and uncritical loyalty and trust.

8. What leadership attributes did Absalom have and how did he misuse them? (I Samuel 13:13-18)

9. Jezebel was a powerful leader. She was ruthless and had occult priests serving her." Her life and leadership went to the dogs." Explain this. (2 Kings 9:30-37).



10. Why was Hitler so loved and so admired as a leader?

11. The twin towers attack in NY was a well planned and well led operation. Why did the people follow the person giving oversight to this mission?

12. People like certainty and a predictable lifestyle. In times of uncertainty like the current world economic crisis the time is ripe for toxic leaders to emerge. What will be the attributes of the anti Christ? (1 Thess. 2)

13. People like certainty and a predictable lifestyle. In times of uncertainty like the current world economic crisis the time is ripe for toxic leaders to emerge. What will be the attributes of the anti Christ? (1 Thess. 2)

14. The Book of Revelation warns us that false and abusive leaders will work all sorts of signs and wonders. They will deceive many within the church. Jesus said that at judgment some will say we worked miracles in your name and He will reply, "Away from me, I don't know you." Is the ability to work miracles a guarantee then that a leader is genuine and authentic? What were Pharaoh's magicians able to do to try to counter Moses?

"All roads up the hill lead to the truth, there are common basal truths in all religions", claim leaders of cults, (who include Jesus in their pantheon of great spiritual leaders). At the end of the age the anti Christ will take this line and create a one world religion to unite humanity. Christians will be persecuted as they will continue to state that Jesus is the exclusive way to God, and will be labeled as bigoted and discriminatory. What signs do you see in today's world that are occurring, that could signal the start of such move to put religion under the oversight of one supreme person?