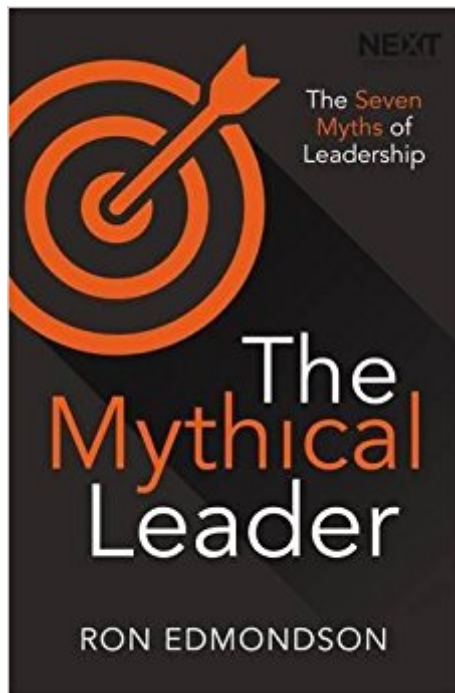




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The Mythical Leader: The Seven Myths Of Leadership



Synopsis

Pastor and popular blogger, Ron Edmondson exposes some of the common misunderstandings of leadership through stories from his own experiences, helping leaders develop healthier patterns of individual leadership. Being a leader involves much more than holding a title. And simply having a leader doesn't ensure success. This reality has never been more prevalent in the church than now, when so many churches are considered to be plateaued or dying. Pastor and popular blogger, Ron Edmondson believes this is due to a misunderstanding of what leadership is and what it isn't. In his work with hundreds of pastors and churches, the most common need he encounters is the need for more effective leadership in the local church. Seminaries may prepare pastors to preach, just as colleges may prepare teachers to teach, but who prepares pastors to lead? Simply stated: The church needs better leadership. In *The Mythical Leader*, Edmondson exposes some of the most common misunderstandings of leadership, shares stories from his own experiences, and will help church leaders develop healthier patterns to improve their individual leadership. While most people may have a preliminary understanding of many of these myths, they often are not lived out with a great degree of depth in the life of the church leader. Don't fall prey to these myths! If gone untreated they can be the very thing that prevents a good leader from leading well.

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Customer Reviews

Ron Edmondson is a pastor with a heart for the established church and church planting. With a long business background, he brings a fresh approach to Christian leadership. Ron is pastor of the historic Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, KY. Ron blogs regularly at RonEdmondson.com.

Ron and his wife, Cheryl, live as empty-nesters with their spoiled Yorkiepoo named Lexi.

What an incredibly practical book. In a listical style, Ron covers 7 myths that every leader struggles with. There are so many takeaways from every chapter, you should see my book--highlights and dog ears everywhere. I particularly appreciate how much he wrote about the myth that leaders must have charisma and be extroverts. That chapter alone is worth the price of this book. It helped me think through my leadership in a different light. So don't wait! Pick up a copy of this book and work through it with your team. Cover one myth per staff meeting and start walking in leadership effectiveness!

I have enjoyed the author's leadership blog for the past few years and was very much looking forward to this new book and I was not disappointed. The author has been a senior leader in business, government and the church so he is well-qualified to write this book on leadership. The book is well-written and practical, with helpful takeaways such as six casualties of people-pleasers and four wrong ways to respond to criticism. The author writes that in his work with hundreds of pastors and churches, the single most common need he has found is the need for more effective leadership in the local church. I agree with him that seminaries don't teach pastors to lead (but they should). In this book, he exposes some of the common misunderstandings of leadership, shares stories from his experience, and helps the reader develop healthier patterns to improve individual leadership skills. The seven myths he addresses are: Myth 1: A Position Will Make Me a Leader. This myth reminded me of "Level 1: Position", from John Maxwell's book The Five Levels of Leadership. The author writes that your title does not matter. What matters is how you carry out the work you are responsible for doing. He tells us that ultimate leadership is proven not by position or title, rather when, by our sacrifice, we help make life better for other people. Myth 2: If I Am Not Hearing Anyone Complain, Everyone Must Be Happy. One good takeaway I got from this particular myth was to never assume agreement by silence. Never assume people are on board because they have not indicated otherwise. Myth 3: I Can Lead Everyone the Same Way. I've always said that I don't treat everyone the same way, but I treat everyone equally fairly. The author states that when you fail to remember that people are different, you frustrate the people you are trying to lead. You get poor performance from the best leaders on your team, and worst of all, your team fails to live up to its potential. He states that people are different and require different leadership styles. Myth 4: Leadership and Management Are the Same Thing. The author

tells us that leadership and management are not equal and they require different skills. Every organization needs both leadership and management. Leadership is more about empowerment and guiding people to a common vision, while management is more about maintaining efficiency toward a predetermined destination.

Myth 5: Being the Leader Makes Me Popular. The author states that there is sometimes a loneliness in leadership that cannot be avoided. He tells us that we should not offer to lead if we are not willing to sometimes stand alone. He writes that the goal of leadership is not to make everyone happy. It is to lead people to a better reality than they know today.

Myth 6: Leaders Must Have Charisma and Be Extroverts. I found this section to be particularly helpful as I am a leader who is an introvert. In the past, I've taken personality assessments indicating that I (as an introvert) would not make a good leader. The author, an introvert himself, tells us otherwise.

Myth 7: Leaders Accomplish by Controlling Others. We've probably all worked with a controlling leader. He writes that controlling produces horrible overall results for the organization, keep people from developing as leaders themselves, and rob the organization of their leadership potential. He states that you cannot lead well and be a control freak at the same time. In fact, controlling is not really leadership, but closer to dictatorship.

I enjoyed and benefited from this book. I would recommend that you not only read it yourself, but with a group of leaders or with a mentee.

In the *Mythical Leader*, Ron Edmondson debunks 7 common myths that limit potential, stifle growth, and cause frustration in the life of a leader. I love how this book explains very complex leadership and management theory in simple terms. I have a PhD in Organizational leadership and I teach leadership and management courses at several colleges and universities. I've dedicated my life to the study of organizational leadership and church leadership. Trust me when I say that Ron hits a home run in this book. Ron's treatment of the "management versus leadership" debate is greatly needed. His section on how to lead well as an introvert needs to be shouted in leadership conferences across the country. Plus, his use of numbered lists and clear section headings make this an easy to navigate book for the busy CEO or researcher.

The only thing I wish this book had were a couple more examples of historical and biblical leaders who also debunked one of the 7 myths. If you are serious about leadership, frustrated by leadership, or just curious about what makes a leader successful, then I highly recommend that you pick up a copy of *The Mythical Leader*.

I was an average, introverted guy who felt a calling to leadership in ministry as an introvert. It's

taken me twenty years to figure out how to actually lead other people, and I'm still in elementary school, practically speaking. Ron obviously wrote this book for me. It's as if he asked me what my biggest leadership struggles were and wrote about them. How can you lead well, as an introvert? Ron answers it. What's the difference between management and leadership? Ron nails it. How can you lead relationally and communicate thoroughly? Ron's tips are spot on. Anybody in leadership anywhere needs to read this book. Let your leadership myths get challenged!

Whether leading in a church, nonprofit or for profit organization this book will help strengthen your leadership skills. Ron discussing the different personality types and how to effectively lead them and myself was particularly helpful. "A title doesn't make you a leader" is a powerful and truthful quote. I have it posted where it will be a constant reminder. This book has many tips, references and advice that can help any leader from C level to team leaders be more effective in leading their team. I'm looking forward to more of his work on leadership.

We all think we know what we will do when we are the leader of a church, business, or non-profit, but we soon discover we might not know as much as we thought once the burden is on our shoulders. This is a book that will help you navigate common leadership pitfalls. Ron Edmondson is a leader I have had the joy of leading with and I have seen him lead in several different settings. Trust me, Ron gets it! he understands the cost of leadership. If you are leading or you dream of leading get this book and soak in the wisdom!

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