

**Truly Authentic Leadership by Bill George**  
*October 30, 2006 issue of US News and World Report*

On page 52 Mr. George writes:

“How do we recognize authentic leaders? Usually, they demonstrate these five traits:

1. Pursuing their purpose with passion
2. Practicing solid values
3. Leading with their hearts as well as their heads
4. Establishing connected relationships
5. Demonstrating self-discipline”

In discussing this issue, GMBA pastors responded by saying:  
*(all comments edited for length but not content.)*

Archie Walker:

Everywhere I turn, I am seeing secular stuff which appears to be mirroring principles we find in the Scriptures. I believe those who feel that visionary leadership begins with principles/values must define WHICH principles/values and where those come from in their life. How is a leader's vision to be tested and by whom? Many dreamers have such a personality that they detest anyone questioning their vision. In fact, contemporary church growth gurus readily suggest that church planters simply point people to the door who want to test their vision. The bottom line is that I think we need to start with the Scriptures instead of the business world.

Johnnie and Lahoma Loar:

We think this is a fairly good list. Here are some parallels we came up with.

1. Singleness of mind
2. Morally upright and above reproach
3. compassionate, yet holding firmly to God's teachings
4. Has an accountability relationship in place
5. Has self control.

Hugh Diggins:

Pursuing their purpose with passion - **Colossians 1:28-29**

Paul writes in this passage a declaration of his passion for the ministry and the goal of seeing "every man complete in Christ." The joy and determination he expresses is obvious.

Practicing solid values - **I Timothy 3:2-7**

This list of qualifications for Elders shows the values God requires in His appointed leadership. Being "above reproach" and "having a good reputation with those outside the church" mean you live Biblically both inside and outside the Church.

Leading with their hearts as well as their heads - **I Thessalonians 2:4-12**

In this passage we see the heart of the Elder beautifully illustrated as that of a "nursing mother" and a "father". Phrases such as "tender care", "fond affection" "very dear" certainly demonstrate the true heart of a leader in love with the people he is blessed with the privilege to serve.

Establishing connect relationships - **I Timothy 1:1-2, 18, II Timothy 2:2-7**

The relationship between Paul and Timothy is a great example of closeness. Paul refers to Timothy as his "beloved son" and "true child in the faith" and he enhances their relationship with words of encouragement. This is what makes for a real connected relationship.

Demonstrating self-discipline” - **I Timothy 4:6-16**

What a great passage to encourage self-discipline in the minister. We have to be sweaty servants, laboring in the Word and benefiting from it personally so we may labor in God's vineyard for the benefit of others.