



# Ethics in Leadership

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What did you learn last year? I learned how important the people are that we lean on for support; and how we can't take them for granted. Who are those in your life you have leaned on? Who provided needed favors? Who offered you direction? Who forgave your actions? I can't begin to number the folks who have touched me this past year with their thoughtfulness. In light of what we have experienced and learned from others, let us look forward to the new year.

This article is about New Beginnings in our CAP lives, our business lives and most importantly, our personal lives. January is typically the time to set goals for the new year. However, resolutions rarely last but a month or two. Still, I like to consider this time of year an opportunity to begin anew.

What will I strive to change; to do differently? How can I change my life habits? To begin, I want to be more of a reader of articles and books that help increase my spirituality and my knowledge of leadership principles. I wish to spend less time in my recliner watching TV and set aside more time to read - an hour more each day, instead of watching the news. Since my retirement, I do more CAP writing. With an effort to read more, I will have more about which to write. It will also help me to be more relevant. For my health, I will begin to move more, exercise my body and spend less time in a chair. A good beginning will be with just a few more minutes of activity per hour.

Family members are some of the most significant people around us - the engine that powers the various cars of our lives. If the family engine is not maintained, it is unlikely we will make much progress. Begin to evaluate how to keep that engine running. More importantly, strive to be the maintenance engineer! My family won't change unless I do. I resolve to compliment more and find fault less. In any conflict or challenge, I will look to myself first.

Your CAP engine needs attention, as well. Read the maintenance handbook that goes with your position and wonder how you can begin to better apply the principles within. The same applies to your professional life. No matter what has happened in the past year, be it good or not, work to have a new beginning, a fresh energy. Magnify that which was good and evaluate your role in what needs to be improved.

Who or what do you want to become in this next year? People can rarely change overnight. Aim, and endeavor to change by taking baby steps. We should look in the mirror daily and decide if we like the person looking back at us. A New Beginning requires us to change - even if only in small increments.

**By small and simple means are great things brought to pass.** I would challenge you to use this principle to change something in your life this new year.

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