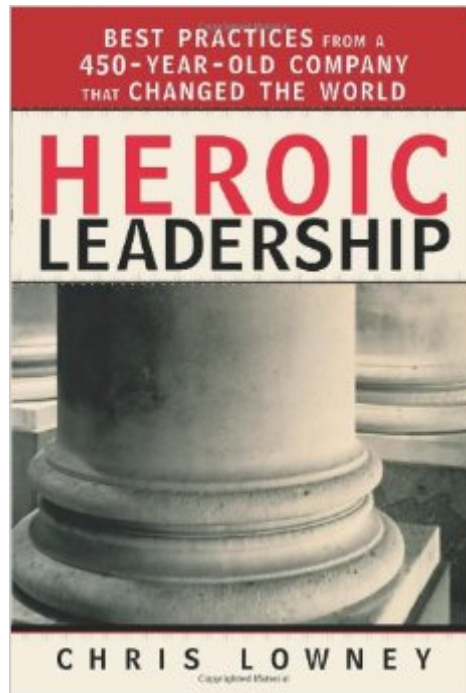


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# Heroic Leadership: Best Practices From A 450-Year-Old Company That Changed The World



## Synopsis

Leadership Principles for Lasting Success Leadership makes great companies, but few of us truly understand how to turn ourselves and others into great leaders. One companyâthe Jesuitsâpioneered a unique formula for molding leaders and in the process built one of historyâs most successful companies. In this groundbreaking book, Chris Lowney reveals the leadership principles that have guided the Jesuits for more than 450 years: self-awareness, ingenuity, love, and heroism. Lowney shows how these same principles can make each of us a dynamic leader in the twenty-first century. âEntertaining and well researched, this is a must-read for any business leader, and an inspirational read for anyone who wants to be a better human being.â

âWalter Gubert, chairman of the investment bank, J. P. Morgan âLowney does a wonderfully engaging job of making clear the connections between our current leadership challenges and the principles employed so effectively by the Jesuits.â

âEdward J. Kelly III, president and ceo, Mercantile Bankshares Corporation âIn this absorbing, lucid book, Lowney . . . explores how the Jesuits have successfully grappled with challenges that test great companies. Reflective businesspeople of faith will find Lowneyâs insights a breath of fresh air.â

âPublishers Weekly, starred review âThis 450-year-old institution [seems] as current today as it was four centuries ago. Lowney shows us how every employee can and should be a leader and that love-driven leadership does work.â

âRichard K. Green, former president and COO, Blistex, Inc. âThis informative, fascinating book tells how Jesuits produced both outstanding individual leaders and a culture of leadership. This is a book to be enjoyed, pondered, and put into practice.â

âJohn W. Padberg, S.J., director, Institute of Jesuit Sources CIP

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Loyola Press; Reprint edition (January 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0829421157

ISBN-13: 978-0829421156

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (101 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #36,009 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Leadership #36 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches &

## Customer Reviews

Jesuit high school and college. But then again I think just about every Jesuit school graduate would say the same thing. Ten men, no money, no business plan and within ten years they had thirty schools established and running. And not only has the Jesuit order survived for over four hundred years (after its abolition by the Pope everywhere but in Russia), but it has thrived. There is simply no comparable for-profit corporation with that same history of longevity and success. Ignatius Loyola set out some clear policies that survive and work to this day. Almost thirty years out from high school graduation I value my Jesuit education more than ever. What I've found is that the ability to reason, calculate, write and think is much more rare than I previously thought. To this I have the Society of Jesus to thank. I really can't imagine my life without my Jesuit education. The Jesuit high school course of study is essentially the same for my son's class of 2007 as it was for my class of 1975. But it should be noted that the Jesuits have adapted and requirements in Greek and Latin are no longer there. The key here is some foreign language is essential for a high school student. Money can come and go but education lasts and that can't be taken away from you. There were lots of things I didn't know about the Jesuits that I learned in this book. Looking back I can see where these principles were applied. Things such as "only the best teachers." There is a definite Jesuit "way we do things" which is consistent at all Jesuit schools. The references to "The Spiritual Exercises" were helpful and enlightening. Some of the historical discussion about Paraguay, China and India was either unclear or slightly too long.

Chris Lowney has written a beauty of book bringing into focus leadership principles first implemented 450 years ago when Jesuit founder, St. Ignatius Loyola, established a leadership culture that led to one of the great organizational success stories in history. And along with the lessons on leadership, Lowney's readers also get a great story on several important chapters in world history. Loyola builds on love driven leadership, an approach to leadership based on the notion that everyone has leadership potential, and true leaders unlock that potential in others. The how of unlocking potential is rooted in an orientation to "greater love than fear." This notion of leadership fits well with the growing trend of "people centered leadership" as evidenced by best selling books authored by Pat Lencioni, John Maxwell, and others. This is a welcomed change from former corporate speak where sports figures and a towel snapping, take-no-prisoners model took

center stage Lowney details Loyola's four pillars of success: self-awareness; ingenuity; love; and, heroism. The first step to leadership is self-leadership which springs from personal beliefs and attitudes. Throughout the book, Lowney highlights Loyola's belief that self-awareness is linked to leadership showing through example how leaders thrive by understanding who they are and what they value, by becoming aware of unhealthy blind spots or weaknesses that can derail them, and by cultivating the habit of continuous self-reflection and learning. Loyola's spiritually based approach to leadership also identifies attachments in life as obstacles to leading. He also underscores how ingenuity disposes people not to just think out of the box but to live outside the box.

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