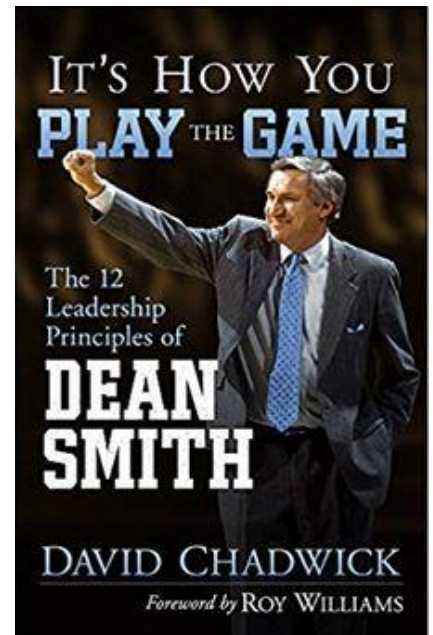


It's How You Play the Game – Part II

Leadership Principle 7 - Speak Positive Words: Encouraging words are a powerful tool to motivate people. In contrast, “discouraging words spread negativism and a defeatist attitude among sports teams, families and companies.” A great leader has the ability to impart to his followers a positive attitude that makes them believe they can overcome any obstacle. Jesus certainly did that. Spread positivity among those around you. Read Proverbs 18:21 and Ephesians 4:49.

Leadership Principle 8 - Pass On What You Know: Dean Smith was a student of the game and made an intentional effort to pass on his knowledge, philosophy and core values to players and fellow coaches. Because of his mentoring the coaching tree extends deep into future coaches and business leaders. Smith prepared future coaches and young men for life by interacting with them and encouraging them to ask questions. Jesus prepared his disciples to carry on the ministry by building a close relationship with them and then devoting three years of concentrated time equipping them for the next stage. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-2 and Luke 9:102. How do you prepare the members of your family and workplace to achieve?

Leadership Principle 9 - Be a Person of Good Character: Coach Smith said, “Your Reputation is what others think of you. Character is what you think of yourself.” In the book, *It's How You Play the Game*, David Chadwick said, “Character is who you are when no one else is looking. It's being the same person publically and privately. It's your words matching your deeds. As a leader if you lose your character you lose your credibility.” Players followed Dean Smith because his words matched his life. Jesus Christ is the model of a person with character. We can't be perfect, but we can be recognized as a person whose words and deeds match each other. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and Philippians 4:8.



Leadership Principle 10 - Make Failure Your Friend: While many people don't want to talk about failure, Coach Smith thought this was a very important principle. Life has its ups and downs. You learn from the mistakes, build on them and then move on. Smith said to “not let failure define you.” Failure does not scare or intimidate him. In Smith's world it is not the wins and losses but how people handle the disappointments, and the character a person displays in “how you play the game.” Our Lord Jesus Christ faced lots of opposition but He maintained His commitment to do the right thing. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and Romans 8:28).

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father. When we speak encouraging words we acknowledge the worth of all people and support their attempts to achieve. We pray we will be a positive example for others with our words and actions. Give us the strength to persevere but the wisdom to put our life in your hands, Lord. Amen.

This is the second of a 3-part series on Christian leadership. The traits described in all 3 parts are exhibited by Dean Smith, the former University of North Carolina basketball coach. In this series he is just a recognizable example of a person who exhibits traits of Christian leadership that are also observed in other Christian leaders. Dean Smith's Christian attributes are described by Rev. David Chadwick, in the book *It's How You Play the Game*. Chadwick played for Coach Smith and is now pastor of a large church in Charlotte, NC.