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Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company That Changed the World: Best Practices from a 450 Year Old Company That Changed the World

By Chris Lowney



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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 company—the Jesuits—pioneered a unique formula for molding leaders and in the process built one of history’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.

“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.”
—Walter Gubert, chairman of the investment bank, J. P. Morgan

“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.”
—Edward J. Kelly III, president and ceo, Mercantile Bankshares Corporation

“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 Lowney’s insights a breath of fresh air.”
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

“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.”

—Richard K. Green, former president and COO, Blistex, Inc.

“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.”

—John W. Padberg, S.J., director, Institute of Jesuit Sources

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

What can a 16th-century priest tell a 21st-century business executive about leadership? Plenty, believes this author, who points out that from a 10-man "company" founded by St. Ignatius Loyola in 1540, the Jesuits are now the world's largest religious order, with 21,000 professionals. In this absorbing, lucid book, Lowney, who left a seven-year stint as a Jesuit seminarian to become a managing director at J.P. Morgan, explores how the Jesuits have successfully grappled with challenges that test great companies—forging seamless multinational teams, motivating performance, being open to change and staying adaptable. As he takes the reader on an engaging romp through slices of Jesuit history, Lowney references four Jesuit pillars of success: self-awareness (reflection), ingenuity (embracing change), love (positive attitudes toward others) and heroism (energizing ambitions). Despite the emphasis on the four pillars, this is no formulaic "12-steps-to-success" tome. Rather than focusing on what leaders do, Lowney shows how the Jesuit approach focuses on who leaders are. His conversational voice draws the reader in as he unfolds leadership lessons from some unlikely Jesuit role models, including explorer Benedetto de Goes, linguist Matteo Ricci and mathematician and astronomer Christopher Clavius. Lowney's passion for history is appealing, and he is careful not to sugarcoat his historical role models. Professionals looking for a One-Minute type of business book won't find it here, but more reflective businesspeople of faith will find Lowney's insights a breath of fresh air.

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Review

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“In his book, *Heroic Leadership*, Chris Lowney uses the history and tradition of the Jesuit order to articulate a model for authentic, moral leadership. As Governor of Colorado, *Heroic Leadership* helped me think about how to lead better than any other book out there.”

Bill Ritter, Jr.

Former Governor of Colorado

From the Inside Flap

Leaders make great companies, but few of us truly understand how to turn ourselves and others into great leaders. One company—the Jesuits—pioneered a unique formula for molding leaders. In the process, the Jesuits built one of history’s most successful companies.

Founded in 1540 by ten men with no capital and no business plan, the Jesuits have been a source of innovation and discovery ever since. In this groundbreaking book, Chris Lowney, a former Jesuit and executive with J. P. Morgan, reveals the leadership principles that have guided Jesuit leaders in their diverse pursuits for more than 450 years.

The Jesuits’ enduring success rests upon four core leadership pillars:

- self-awareness: Understand your strengths, weaknesses, values, and worldview
- ingenuity: Confidently innovate and adapt to a changing world
- love: Engage others with a positive attitude that unlocks their potential
- heroism: Energize yourself and others with heroic ambitions and a passion for excellence

By incorporating these principles into their daily lives, the Jesuits built an organization that has operated a highly efficient international network of trade, education, missionary work, and scholarship for almost five centuries. Lowney shows how these same principles can make each of us a dynamic leader in the twenty-first century.

“I am confident that I would have been a far more effective leader if I had read *Heroic Leadership* years ago. Highly recommended!”

—Ron Burkard, *Executive Director, World Neighbors*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Olga Noone:

Book is written, printed, or highlighted for everything. You can know everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. To be sure that book is important point to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading talent was fluently. A publication Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company That Changed the World: Best Practices from a 450 Year Old Company That Changed the World will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every little thing. But some of you think which open or reading a book make you bored. It is not necessarily make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you trying to find best book or appropriate book with you?

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Rose Duprey:

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