



Leadership and the Liberal Arts

With Dr. Christopher Perrin

Lecture 6: The Classical Tradition of Leadership

Outline:

The Classical Tradition of Leadership

- Plato, *The Republic*, passage from book II
 - To be a guardian you have to be trained over a long period of time.
 - What do we learn about leadership? Is he touching on some universal leadership qualities? Are you seeking to obtain some of these qualities?
 - Can anyone be molded into a great leader, or do leaders need certain aptitudes?
 - The leader of the city is to be a guard (well-bred dog).
 - Leaders need bodily strength and strength of spirit. Do we take care of our bodies and spirit?
 - How do you respond to what is strange or alien (like a philosopher)?
 - Philosophy means a love of wisdom.
 - He who is gentle to his friends must by nature be a lover of wisdom and knowledge.
 - He must unite in himself philosophy, bodily swiftness and strength, and mental strength.
 - How are these qualities to be reared and educated? What makes the leader?
 - We should be looking for certain aptitudes and qualities that people assume to possess by nature.
 - What shall be their (the young) education?
 - There is a traditional education (gymnastic for the body and music for the soul).
 - Literature is part of the musical education. This includes literature for virtue development.
 - The beginning is the most important part of any work.
 - If you're a leader, how were you raised as a child?
 - If you are looking to hire a leader, how were they raised as a child?
 - There is a set of criteria for what is good for children's books.
 - Plato is not pleased with the moral wrong in Homer's writings. He would filter the tales in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.
 - Have you had conversations about the books that formed them when they were young (before college)?
- Xenophon, *the education of Cyrus the Great*



- Cyrus the Great was an unusually just leader.
- Xenophon was a Greek writer, who wrote about the education of Cyrus.
- Success tends to create pride and blindness in the hearts of men. Have you seen this happen to leaders who you have known? Are you willing to go through suffering?
- A smaller army with stronger morale can defeat a larger army. Are you willing to “die with honor”? Does your team have a strong morale? How do you seek to build morale?
- Self-confidence should always ride side by side with a strong sense of humility. These two things exist together in a leader.
- Leaders have to act. What is the last thing that you have done? Are you leading by example?
- Does it matter what a great leader does in private? There is a relationship between what is done in private and public leadership.
- People want to do good. What does this mean for leadership? You have people who work around you who want to know and do good. Do you model benevolence for inspiring those around you?
- A leader is quick to work hard? Are you slow to work hard or quick to work hard?
- Know thyself. Have you ever asked people to tell you who they think you are?
 - What do you think I have done well this year?
 - What is one area that I could improve in this year?
- If you are suffering, have you been able to learn patience and strength? Soldiers have to endure hardship. You want experienced soldiers fighting with you. Do you learn from the veterans?