

Embrace Being a Leader

in the 21st Century

—by Jacqueline Lupo Cornaby, Tau Beta/Oklahoma State University

Leaders operate daily from a consistent set of unshakeable principles. Identifying the principles and implementing them in your life will give you the tools to sharpen your leadership skills.

When America chooses between two male presidential candidates, one might wonder why a woman has never been a serious contender for the highest office in the nation. The concept of a woman in power is not unlikely. Women have been queens of nations, tribal chiefs, empresses, and as you will see in the feature story that follows, our own Chi Os are leaders in our nation's capital.

In a world where women have defined themselves based upon what the media or culture declares to be true, it is no wonder we have mixed messages about who we are supposed to be and our role as leaders in the 21st century. Nelson Mandela said it all: "We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

Leaders Leave Clues

And while it may not be detective work, consider this: Leaders operate daily from a consistent set of unshakeable principles. Identifying the principles and implement-

ing them in your life will give you the tools to sharpen your leadership skills. What are they you ask?

- ☞ **Commitment** – Follow through even when it's inconvenient, not only when you're interested or when it's comfortable.
- ☞ **Discipline** – Staying power even when the external world says differently; focused self-control.
- ☞ **Integrity** – Whole and complete with your word being equal to your action; serving the highest good.
- ☞ **Inspiration** – Inspired from within; a combination of hunger and heart.
- ☞ **Vision** – Dreaming big, focused on the compelling future.

Powerful virtues to live by, it is no coincidence they are closely related to the theme Chi Omega sings to the world. So now picture this: You applying these five principles to your world.

What would be possible? What impact would you have on the world? Whose life will be greater for having applied these principles as your foundation? Who would you become?

Imagine if these principles were part of

your everyday life, a natural state for you. It may free you up to: ☞ leave worry (the misuse of imagination) behind; ☞ go about your business without hesitation; ☞ be decisive about big and small scenarios in your life; ☞ notice an increase in confidence which gets you out of wasted time spent wondering what others may be thinking or saying about you; ☞ focus your time and energy to what matters most to you in life; ☞ feel certain in your ideas, allowing for contagious sharing; ☞ open yourself to life's possibilities; ☞ attract abundance and prosperity; ☞ create richer relationships; ☞ welcome empowering beliefs that support your pursuit of your dreams and even bigger dreams; ☞ or embrace the simple pleasures of joy, fulfillment, peace, and trust in the moment which will ultimately bring the future. With a sense of anticipation, it's as if something great is about to happen.

World's Greatest Natural Resource

Tap into your feminine power and discover the possibilities available to you. Feminine power is not feminism or a movement. Simply put, it is your birthright as a woman. The realization happens when you are no longer trying to gain power by doing something. You aren't: looking for external things or people to fulfill the need to feel powerful or worthy; thinking a promotion or job title gives you power, or success and money are the benchmark for being powerful; needing approval and acceptance from others; or allowing your self-confidence and happiness to be contingent upon outside events and people.

We are all leaders. Perhaps some of us have just forgotten.

You are instead expressing yourself as a powerful woman. Feminine power is the willingness to discover and achieve what you want, believing it is possible without compromising yourself as a woman. It is where you choose who you are committed to be instead of life's circumstances defining you. It is a shift from trying to control everything outside of you to knowing how to take control of your life.

How to do this involves the self-discovery of what you want in your life and conditioning yourself for success based upon adhering to your core set of beliefs and values in every moment. Tending daily to our inner power sets us up to win in any environment.

In the quest to be Superwoman, many of us might need a refresher course on what being a Powerful Woman Leader means. Let's start with what being powerful IS NOT: It is not pretending to be something or someone we are not—like trying to be more masculine to fit in the business world, or mistaking stress and high pressure with feeling significant and important. Powerful is not forceful and it is not allowing circumstance, events, or others to determine our decisions or who we choose to be.

Being powerful IS: 🌀 Coming from a place of love and abundance, not stress (stress is fear in disguise); 🌀 choosing consciously the virtues and principles you stand for and holding yourself lovingly accountable daily, on purpose, with a cause greater than yourself; 🌀 playful and able to laugh at yourself; 🌀 a sense of wonder and innocence for all you still have to discover on this journey; 🌀 and, most important, it is giving yourself permission to be freely expressed as a woman.

Ways to Implement Being A Powerful Leader

🌀 **Good Morning Goddess** – Time you devote to yourself every morning for reflec-

tion and self-discovery. Activities within a 20-minute interval may be prayer, meditation, walking, reading, pampering, affirmations, playing your favorite music, creative expression, or silence. You choose. The most important thing is to schedule this first and arrange the day accordingly. You might be surprised how your day is transformed.

🌀 **Accountability** – Create an environment of people who hold you to your highest standard, lovingly reminding you of your greatness, and honestly sharing where you can improve. Making a public commitment to those you trust of your willingness to be powerful, not forceful, will give you that extra boost.

🌀 **Awareness** – Notice when you are feeling powerful from within and when you are not. Do not make yourself wrong, simply change it in the moment.

🌀 **Modeling** – Who do you consider to be a powerful woman leader? Identify the qualities, beliefs, and demeanor she lives by and model her behavior

The standard is not perfection, it is fulfillment and liberation. Embrace being a leader in the 21st century who achieves effortless prosperity and internal power. Being powerful needs few words: It is a state of being and it's yours for the taking.

The Time is NOW

The world is calling for leaders to step up and play big on the planet. Making a difference begins with you. We are all leaders: Perhaps some of us have just forgotten.

As women, we set the tone for our family, community and beyond. Being a leader doesn't suggest a title or salary requirement. It is the willingness to honor ourselves, giving others permission to do so as well. Many are watching and you can feel confident in knowing you've never been given a desire without also being given the power to fulfill it. And to all mothers: May you know just how significant your leader-

ship role is in having a profound impact in our future. You are not taken lightly.

Take time to decide what is most important to you and what you are willing to have an effect on within this world. Categorize your life into: 🌀 YOU, 🌀 Spirituality, 🌀 Health, 🌀 Family, 🌀 Career, 🌀 Mission, and 🌀 Contribution. Within each category choose one thing about which you passionately want to make a difference through your leadership . . . and begin! Your lasting influence will leave each person you touch in a better space than before you arrived.

Add Your Own Style

You may decide it's time to brighten up the wardrobe, add a little pink or color, high heels, and your favorite lipstick . . . or then again you may not. Either way add your own style as you shape your life and the lives of many by embracing the 21st century leader within you—a woman who can have it all without compromising her feminine spirit.

Know that you have a sisterhood of raving fans cheering for you to honor yourself fully, without apology, gaining a level of excellence in alignment with the philosophy of "Becoming of a Chi Omega."



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jacqueline Cornaby is the founder and CEO of Jacqueline International, Inc. an enterprise for implementing business and life strategies by which individuals and organizations may live an extraordinary life. An international speaker, author, and life strategist, Jacqueline coaches Fortune 500 Companies, organizations, non-profits, CEOs, and other individuals. Contact her at: booking@jacquelineinternational.com. A division of her company, The Goddess Gang, is devoted to the empowerment of women. Subscribe to a free e-zine at www.gogoddessgo.com.