

Seven Characteristics of Ownership

1. **Awareness-** The first step in taking ownership is becoming aware of everything that God gives you responsibility for in your life and ministry--relationships, tasks, positions, outcomes, etc. Create an inventory and begin praying that God gives you strength and discernment in taking complete ownership of these things.
2. **Humility-** This is the most important characteristic of ownership. Ownership is not having a Type A personality nor is it micro-managing people and events. It begins with recognizing that you don't have all the answers, admitting mistakes and weaknesses, recognizing that God has blessed you with many resources to help solve problems and innovate. A humble approach to life and ministry will lead to others trusting you even more!
3. **Responsibility-** Our ego and pride resist taking responsibility. But taking full responsibility when things go wrong that are directly and indirectly connected to you is difficult, but mature. Once you have taken full responsibility for it, the ownership of solving the problem follows. This may be the most difficult part of ownership as our sinful nature urges us to blame others, make excuses, and play the victim.
4. **Freedom-** Ownership leads to freedom. It is tempting to think that ownership leads to more guilt, shame, and burdens. On the contrary, taking ownership frees us from having to make excuses, cover up for weakness, and justify our shortcomings. That takes a lot of energy! Instead, ownership clearly defines that we are responsible and motivates us to move forward with creativity and improvement.
5. **Acknowledgement-** Celebrating the accomplishments of our teammates build confidence and camaraderie and leads to others taking more ownership of the things in their lives and area of ministry.
6. **Belief-** An often overlooked aspect of ownership is belief. If you fully are invested in your family and ministry's mission, people see that. Your ownership of ministry is contagious!
7. **Empowerment-** Equipping others to be successful in their area of life and ministry is essential to good ownership. We are doing a disservice to others and God when we try to do everything ourselves. God has given others unique gifts and talents that can greatly benefit the Kingdom. We must take ownership in helping those around us grow and be a blessing to others.