



## 12 TRAITS OF DINOSAUR LEADERS

J.J. Turner, Ph.D. ©

It has been proven that a species known as dinosaurs once lived on the earth. What happened to this species of giant animals? No doubt there were several things that contributed to their extinction. One answer is they lost their inability to cope with the change of climate and environment on the earth; they died from a failure to adapt.

What do dinosaurs and their failure to change have to do with leadership? Everything! Leaders who won't/can't change with the changing times will in the future be like the dinosaur, extinct, relics in a museum labeled as a historical exhibit. I have actually heard leaders in the church referred to as "dinosaur leaders" because they were cemented in traditions of the past, out of touch with the times, and refused to consider anything new.

Dinosaur leaders have a number of identifiable traits. Here are 12 of them:

1. Dinosaur leaders have a natural tendency to resist change.
2. Dinosaur leaders have a severe case of near-sightedness—no vision for the future.
3. Dinosaur leaders tend to be critical of innovations or changes of any kind.
4. Dinosaur leaders are usually paralyzed by fear at the slightest idea or mention of change.
5. Dinosaur leaders would rather play it safe than sorry; they fear mistakes of any kind.



6. Dinosaur leaders usually lack knowledge and skills required to lead in change.
7. Dinosaur leaders judge things on the merit of what is best for them; not the followers.
8. Dinosaur leaders tend to be negative and pessimistic about new proposals or ideas for change.
9. Dinosaur leaders tend to belittle and laugh at new ideas or suggestions for change.
10. Dinosaur leaders have nightmares instead of positive dreams of a bright future.
11. Dinosaur leaders enjoy living in the comfort zone where boats are not rocked.
12. Dinosaur leaders tend to dwell on the past and the “good old days” rather than today and the future.

Obviously I am using “dinosaur leader” as a metaphor to remind us not to dwell in the past or let a fear of change stall us in the progress lane. This has been about methodology, not about doctrine.

---

The **Jeremiah Institute** is created to enhance, train and encourage leaders to grow and move the church forward on her mission to glorify God. Check out our articles and go to our BOOK section for some great books to help you avoid becoming a dinosaur leader.