Most of the time, we hear people talk about leaders and the importance of leadership in organizations. We can even find a lot of courses, trainings, and seminars that teach about the skills of an effective leader. Being a leader sounds glamorous and it often command respect from others. We tend to put the spotlight on those with high positions but we often forget about the contributions of people in the bottom of organizational hierarchy. Merle Crowell, an American writer said, “It is the men behind who make the man ahead.”

Everyone knows what leadership is, we all know that the leader is responsible for guiding their people to the right destination, that he inspires others to work toward a better vision; but only few people understand what it means to be a good follower. Being a good follower is just as important as being a good leader as they serve as the backbone of any company; how followers obey their leaders greatly influence the culture and direction of the organization. Just as teachers hope that their students will make use of the knowledge they share, leaders in a business setting can only rely on their staff to deliberately execute and meet their business or financial goals.

A good follower is someone who does more than just follow. They have to be driven by the right motivation and strive to enhance the vision of the leader. A good follower must be empathic and connect with others in order to make a positive impact on the people around them. You can’t know them unless you ask questions and truly listen to their opinions and responses. As subordinate, it is always a good thing to practice humility and accept criticism from superior and peers. Bring your own strengths to the
table but know how to offer solutions and improvements with your head down. Create the habit of openness and work on being an authentic one rather than trying to be perfect. The greatest travesty of followership is to think you are above other people. A great follower understands that he should support his team above himself. Prioritizing the goal of your leader and organization over personal gain is the discipline of followership. Adding value and creativity to your work without noise will most likely help you get noticed and get you very far in your career.

Reference:

https://www.leadershipnow.com/followershipquotes.html