

Captain

Who is the captain? Who is the boss? Who is in charge?

We all are.

Yes, there is one person who plays the role of captain. However, the key is that we are all captains and, ideally, we are all working together towards a common goal.

One person, the captain, sets the direction and gives the majority of directions. At the same time, the captain cannot operate in a vacuum. The captain can work effectively only with the team and the interaction of the team.

The team works when there is input and discussion as decisions are made and carried out. The captain is only as good as his crew.

A boat, a family, or a business, works best and most efficiently when it works as one. When all are part of the team, believe in, and work towards the common goal, it all works smoothly and easily.

A good captain chooses the best people he can find and he listens to and responds to their input. Everyone has knowledge and value. Many have an area of expertise which may very well exceed that of the captain. The captain should recognize it, take advantage of it, and use it for the good of all.

The captain is the teacher, leads by example, and is also the student.

We are all captains and we are all crew. We need to know we are both roles, and we need to accept and appreciate both.

A captain must be obeyed and is responsible for the actions required during a crisis. To do so the captain needs the loyalty, respect, and co-operation of the team. That is earned. One may have the title of captain but they must earn it from the crew if they are to be a true captain.

Respect and loyalty are built one relationship at a time. It is as simple as giving your full attention to another and listening to their

input and opinion. Sure, they may be wrong but that is a chance to teach and work with the person. They may be right, and that is a time for the captain to learn and add to their storehouse of knowledge. It works both ways.

Being captain, or boss as some would call it, is in business, in social, and in personal life. Someone acts as captain of the family, and someone acts as captain in social groups.

A dictator is not a good captain. A dictator decides and demands. They obtain the loyalty from fear and bullying tactics. When the crew has a chance to jump ship, they will.

Yes, we are all captains at different times and in different situations. Be the best captain you can be and be the best crew when you are not the captain.