

Leadership

What is Leadership?

Leadership has been described as "a process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task".

Examples of Leaders we know: *Ask the students to suggest names of leaders.*

Were people like Hitler, Idi Amin, etc Leaders? *Give students time to offer their suggestions before you give the answer.*

Yes they were: the most important phrases in the definition of leadership is INFLUENCE and PEOPLE/OTHERS. These people although being mean and terrible they still had people who gladly followed them. Whether they were good or bad leaders is the real question we should be answering.

Are Leaders born or made?

Just like the chicken and egg debate as to which one came first, whether leaders are MADE or BORN has been an age old debate. I believe that the best leaders learn to lead. The born leaders have natural instincts that most times lead them to accurate and strategic moves that change the game. But leadership is more than abilities to make right moves it's also about good character and care for people which is learnt. If I was to be offered a born leader who has not learned then I rather go with a Made leader. Made leaders come to appreciate the value of candor and trust. They seek to understand and be understood. And they know that communicating and relating well with people are the only ways to achieve the calibre of leadership that endures. The bottom line is that **born or made** both leaders have to go through the process of making otherwise they become dangerous to the people they lead.

Can I be a leader if am not "born leader"

Yes, most great leaders in this world are made. Being born a leader is an advantage because it gives you one step ahead of the MADE leader but being BORN alone is nothing. It's like giving out a loaded rifle to a teenager who thinks that the world and all its people are not real but just a part of a huge Video game. What do you think the teenager will do? The processing of Making is what builds leaders' most important characteristic of valuing their followers. A leader who does not value his/her followers is likely to hurt them more than help them. Think of all the leaders that have hurt you: maybe your teacher, father, mother, MP, etc.

Leading Me

Leadership comes from within. We have to become a master of ourselves before we are able to influence others. We will only be able to influence others by working on ourselves, putting the focus back on ourselves, including making ourselves a diligent student, a good listener, and a great friend.

People in our lives will feel the positive energy from us and respond in the same way. Can you be a happy teacher or health worker? Many may say "no", because teachers and health workers are poorly

You must work on your Self-esteem. It is all about how you evaluate and perceive yourself, and whether you like yourself. If your self-esteem is low, you might think: "I am not as important as others", "my opinions do not count", "I will invite disapproval if I reveal my true opinions", "it's safer to concede in times of conflict", and so on...

With low self-esteem, you tend to compare yourself unfavourably to others. You do not believe you can convince others of your ideas, and therefore, remain silent about your needs, wants, feelings and beliefs, and refrain from standing up for your own rights when you are treated unfairly. Even if you do express yourself, you do it in a

diffident and self-effacing way that allows others to brush you off or ignore your view.

Sometimes we blame others or the system that cause all the problems. But can you take leadership from where you are, stop complaining and do your best, and change yourself? Each of us can be a leader of our own life. Instead of blaming society, you can make a start by changing from within.

Making of a Leader

Do you know whether you have what it takes to become a great leader, the kind who attracts people and makes things happen? If you took the time to really look at yourself deep down, would you find the qualities needed to live out your boldest dreams, the ones so big that you've never shared them with anybody? That's a question each of us must have the courage to honestly ask — and answer — if we want to achieve our real potential.

CHARACTER

How a leader deals with the circumstances of life tells you many things about his or her character. Crisis doesn't necessarily make character, but it certainly does reveal it. Adversity is a crossroads that makes a person choose one of two paths: character or compromise. Every time a leader chooses character, he or she becomes stronger, even if that choice brings negative consequences.

The development of character is at the heart of our development not just as leaders, but as human beings.

Ask yourself whether your words and actions match — all the time. When you say you'll finish an assignment, do you always follow through? If you tell your children that you'll make it to their recital or ball game, are you there for it? Can people trust your handshake as they would a legal contract?

To improve your character, do the following:

Search for the cracks. Spend some time looking at the major areas of your life and identify anywhere you might have cut corners, compromised or let people down.

Look for patterns. Is there a particular area where you have a weakness, or do you have a type of problem that keeps surfacing?

Face the music. The beginning of character repair comes when you face your flaws, apologize and deal with the consequences of your actions.

Rebuild. Now that you've identified any areas of weakness, create a plan that will prevent you from making the same mistakes again.

Change your focus. As you talk to others, determine how much of your conversation is concentrated on yourself. Determine to tip the balance in favor of focusing on others.

Measure it. Sometimes we think we are committed to something, yet our actions indicate otherwise. Spend a few hours tallying up how you spend your time and where you spend your money. All these things are true measures of your commitment.

Know what's worth dying for. If it came down to it, what in life would you not be able to stop doing, no matter what the consequences were? Meditate on that thought, then see if your actions match your ideals.

Be clear as a bell. Examine a letter, memo or other item you've recently written. Are your sentences short and direct, or do they meander? Will your readers be able to grasp the words you've chosen, or will they have to scramble for a dictionary? Have you used the fewest words possible? To a communicator, your best friends are simplicity and clarity.

Refocus your attention. Pay attention to your focus when you communicate. Is it on you, your material or your audience? If it's not on people, you need to change it. Think about their needs, questions and desires. Meet people where they are, and you will be a better communicator.

Live your message. Are there any discrepancies between what you communicate and what you do? Talk to a few trustworthy people and ask them whether you are living your message. Receive their comments without defensiveness. Then strive to make changes in your life to be more consistent.

Get your head in the game. If you've been mentally or emotionally detached from your work, it's time to reengage. Identify the source of the problem and create a plan to resolve it.

Redefine the standard. If you're not performing at a consistently high level, re-examine your standards. Are you shooting too low? Do you cut corners? If so, outline more demanding expectations for yourself.

Find three ways to improve. Nobody keeps improving without being intentional about it. Find three things you can do to improve your professional skills and follow through on them.

Take a giant step. Maybe you've been afraid to make a career move. Take the time to really look at it. If it's the right thing to do, then do it.

Analyze past successes. Look at some problems you solved successfully in the past. What was the root issue in each problem? What enabled you to succeed? If you can capture the heart of the matter in a few words, you can probably learn to do it with future issues.

Learn how others think. Which great leaders do you admire? By learning how other discerning leaders think, you can become more discerning.

Don't wait for opportunity to knock. Take stock of your assets, talents and resources. Doing that will give you an idea of your potential. Now, spend every day for a week looking for opportunities. Where do you see needs? Who is looking for expertise you have?

Take the next step. Pick the best opportunity you see, and take it as far as you can. Don't stop until you've done everything you can to make it happen.

No one achieves and sustains success without self-discipline. It positions a leader to go to the highest level and is key to leadership that lasts. If you can determine what's really a priority and release yourself from everything else, it's a lot easier to follow through on what's important. And that's the essence of self-discipline.

Self-discipline can't be a one-time event. It has to become a lifestyle. To develop a lifestyle of discipline, one of your tasks must be to challenge and eliminate any tendency to make excuses. The next time you're facing a must-do task and you're thinking of doing what's convenient instead of paying the price, change your focus.

Count the benefits of doing what's right and then dive in.

If you know you have talent and you've seen a lot of motion — but little concrete results — you may lack self-discipline.

To improve your self-discipline, do the following:

Sort out your priorities. Think about which two or three areas of life are most important to you and the disciplines that you must develop to keep growing and improving in those areas.

List the reasons. Write out the benefits of practicing the disciplines you've just listed. Post the benefits where you will see them daily. On the days when you don't want to follow through, reread your list.

Get rid of excuses. Write down every reason why you might not be able to follow through with your disciplines. Even if a reason seems legitimate, find a solution to overcome it. Don't leave yourself any reasons to quit.

SERVANTHOOD

Servanthood is not about position or skill. It's about attitude. You have undoubtedly met people in service positions who have poor attitudes toward servanthood: the rude worker at the government agency, the waiter who can't be bothered with taking your order, the store clerk who talks on the phone with a friend instead of helping you.

Just as you can sense when a worker doesn't want to help people, you can just as easily detect whether a leader has a servant's heart. And the truth is that the best leaders desire to serve others, not themselves. The first mark of servanthood is the ability to put others ahead of yourself and your personal desires.

Where is your heart when it comes to serving others? Are you motivated by a desire to help others?

To improve your servanthood, do the following:

Perform small acts. Find ways to do small things that show others that you care.

Learn to walk slowly through the crowd. The next time you attend a function make it your goal to connect with others by circulating among them and talking to people; getting to know their needs, wants and desires.

Move into action. If an attitude of servanthood is conspicuously absent from your life, the best way to change it is to start serving. Sign up to serve others at your church, a community agency or a volunteer organization.

TEACHABILITY: Leaders face the danger of contentment with the status quo. After all, if a leader already possesses influence and has achieved a level of respect, why should he or she keep growing? The answer is — your growth determines who you are, and who you are determines who you attract, and who you attract determines the success of your organization.