

Leading Your Most Difficult Leader

Behavior: Leaders Lead Themselves First

1 Cor 9:25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control,[b] lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Key Thought: Your effectiveness in leading others is the secondary consequence of your ability to lead yourself first.

Jenna and I learned leadership from our pastor. Here are a few quick attributes we keyed in on and adopted as our own: integrity, excellence, honor, humility, holiness, hunger.

When you see a leader who truly practices what they preach your respect and trust in them grows. It is these types of leaders who win your heart and inspire you to follow them into greater things.

Three Important Lessons for Self-led Leaders...

1. THE “WHO” IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR “DO”

Everyone leads, but not every one leads well. John Maxwell reminds us, “Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less”. The best leaders understand that true influence is gained and lost not by our accomplishments but our character. Who we are is more important than what we do. Our *being* is more important than our *doing*. This means becoming a more effective leader does not begin with our actions, but our thinking.

You are a leader! Own It!

Here is a leadership secret. Every leader deals with insecurity. “I am not the smartest person, the most gifted, the wealthiest, the most successful. I feel inadequate in communication, negotiation, conflict management.”

You are a leader! You carry influence! God has called you for this moment and chosen you at this time. Don’t let your insecurities talk you down from the place God has called you!

“Leadership is not a title or position. It’s a mindset.” —Craig Groeschel

Try This: Start your day with a leadership confession. “Lord, thank you that I am a leader who leads leaders. Thank you that you have called me to be a leader who makes it better. I am a leader who is all in. I know leaders are better together. I am a leader who leads myself first.”

2. THE MOMENT YOU STOP GROWING YOU STOP LEADING

Each of us has room to grow! No doubt, we all have consistent nagging thoughts going through our minds. Thoughts like “I need to lose weight.” “I need to stop sleeping in.” “I need to get control of my budget.” “I need to have that hard conversation.” “I need to enroll in a class.”

Life Lesson: You’ll never do what you do not define!

It’s human nature to do what is easy, not what is right. We default to the path of least resistance. Learn the lesson of a body builder...resistance is your friend. You don’t grow stronger in an area unless you purposely overcome resistance!

Take a look at this list and ask yourself this question, “Where do I need to grow the most?”.

- Discipline
- Emotions
- Consistency
- Organization
- Procrastination
- Comparison
- Delegation

Try This: Pick one area you want to grow in and write it down. Define it. Be specific. Share this with your core group and ask them to hold you accountable.

3. YOU BECOME WHAT YOU BEHOLD

What are you consuming? Many leaders suffer from a junk food diet for their minds. Hours wasted on social media, nights squandered binging on entertainment, news sources that fill your mind with fear and negativity. If a person consumes nothing but sugars and carbs their body will not be healthy. An athlete knows that 90% of their results come from the kitchen, not the gym. Consider what affect a poor mental diet is having on your leadership!

Who are you connecting with? You are the average of your five closest friends.

Are you in a PUSH or PULL relationship? It’s a sobering thought to realize that your core group of friends sets the pace for your own self leadership. A strong group of friends PUSH one another towards greater heights. You get stronger, wiser, better together. However, when you have a weak set of friends you find that they PULL on you. You get weaker, foolish, less effective.

Ask yourself, “What are the things that I am consuming the most and who are the people I am connecting with the most? Are they PUSHING me or PULLING me?”.

Try This: Seek out a leader who is 10 steps ahead of where you are. Ask yourself, “How do they think? What do they read? What questions do they ask? What are they obsessed over?”