

## LEADERSHIP- Know Who You Are

One of the most important things about being a leader is being comfortable with oneself. How well do you know yourself? What is truly important to you in this life? How do your current activities demonstrate their importance to others?

A friend recently asked me the question when you die and the people come to support your family at your funeral what will they be thinking of when they think of you? Wow, this is a great question. Whatever they are thinking at my funeral is my legacy to future generations. Their perceptions are shaped based on my support, interaction and shared accomplishments with each of them as an individual.

Take time to jot down on paper what you want to be known for on the day your life is celebrated and you pass onto eternity. For example do you want to be known for: parenting, loving spouse, developing of people, coaching, generosity, talent, intelligence, energetic, good business manager, great speaker, wealthy, satisfied, innovator, faithful, or many other characteristics. There is not a correct answer for everyone because it is truly your vision of yourself as an individual.

Once you have created the list, ask yourself the question how do my actions today help me establish these traits with others? How do people see me respond to circumstances at work or within my family? How do I communicate and treat others?

Does my job and how I perform it align with my life objectives or should I find a way to improve and grow towards my goal? Am I responding to others in a positive fashion to demonstrate my true beliefs about who I am? Are my outside work activities fulfilling the desire to represent my values and support my growth?

As a leader, if we don't know who we are striving to be, we can cause many miss messages to those around us and have a difficult time of helping others to change. So determine how you want to be known and ask the question why would people not see me as I desire? In the world of continuous improvement, this is called a gap assessment and once you understand the gaps, you will lead by example when you develop a plan to change and improve to objectives.