

The Power of a Transparent Leader!

We have all heard that life is “the” journey, and if life is the journey, then being a transparent leader is the journey of the successful leader. One of the most intriguing questions today is; are leaders born or made? Leaders are neither born nor made, they are evolved and developed.

“Leadership is a process in which a person influences others to accomplish an objective and directs the organization. Leaders carry out this process by applying their leadership attributes, such as beliefs, values, ethics, character, knowledge and skills”. Management positions give you the power to make decisions however; this power does not make you a leader, it makes you merely the boss.

Common to the best of leaders is the ability to use and deliver information creatively. This is the ability to raise relevant, thought provoking and insightful questions that separate leaders from everyone else.

Leadership is neither an art nor a science, rather a combination of both. It is an art form because it must continually change and evolve; requiring energy and creativity. It is a science because there are certain essential principles and techniques required to become a good leader.

A great leader knows when it is time to shift the energy or change the process of the leadership to accomplish the goals of the organization. The single most important factor in the success of a company is its people. Beginning with great leadership to set the stage and flowing to the team.

A good leader empowers, motivates and inspires others to reach a common goal. In comparison, anyone can manage but to lead is a skill set that requires transparency of the leader. To become a transparent and authentic leader one must possess the leadership qualities of honesty, trust, integrity and loyalty.

Transparency is the ability to clearly see the relationship between oneself and ones environment. Transparent leaders recognize their strengths and weakness although; above all these leaders maintain self identity, and know who they are and how their actions impact the actions of others. Transparency is the more personal and direct aspect of the leader. If you want the workforce to be engaged and working for the good of the organization, you must share information and expertise that would be most appropriate and effective to build the trust and commitment needed for positive change in the organization. Transparent leaders must convey their principles and beliefs with others to increase the values they promote within the organization.

The key for a transparent leader is to able to tap into their inner self and adapt to each situation. It is okay for the transparent leader to show the emotional side of their leadership abilities however; not allowing your emotional side to manage the

situation. This allows the organization and people whom follow you, to view your leadership style from a personal prospective.

Transparency in women is an easy fit because of the social and nurturing abilities in most women. The transparent leader builds trust and confidence in the environment of leadership by exercising the power of people. The challenge, it is not easy to invest your personal energy and time into being a transparent leader, it has to be a natural progression of your leadership qualities.

Transparency reveals the character of the leader and informs others of the integrity of a person; transparency removes the need to hide and allows a shift to authentic leadership. Transparent leaders are confident with their leadership decisions and strategies and are true to themselves. Leaders that lead transparent lives also live a more fulfilling life.

What people expect from leaders is usually rooted in the basic interpersonal operation of the leader-follower relationship, where personal connections are made through trust, reliability, care, and appreciation.

Authentic leadership is what people want to follow and trust, as a leader you want to be trusted by the people you lead. Transparent leaders are willing to admit mistakes so they can address problems. If your goal is to have a team of employees who genuinely want to follow you, as a leader you must acknowledge the reality of each situation, good and bad, so that together you and your team effectively respond to the bigger issues of successful leadership.

Transparency in leadership only builds trust and loyalty; transparent leaders engage the passion of their employees and leverage their commitment to deliver on the core values of the organization.