

ALL CHRISTIAN'S FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

A LEADERSHIP CHECK-UP

Too many of us, especially men, wait until we suspect something is terribly wrong before we see a doctor. Why don't more of us make regular physical check-ups a part of our lives? Sometimes we have good intentions, but never quite get it scheduled. Other times we dismiss telltale-warning signs as insignificant. Worse, we have the arrogance to believe that we are the exception - that we can break the rules of good health without consequence. Leaders love to win and would rather not even talk about the possibility of failure. But failure is inevitable for risk takers. The courage to take risks is a necessary trait for those who would lead successfully over the long time; therefore, leaders ought to know something about how to handle the failure that will inevitably come their way. Dear friend, I'm recommending to you, this short note writing by Dr. John C. Maxwell.

A vital leader seldom waits for failure before appraising his or her leadership skills. These eight questions will help you evaluate your leadership strengths and weaknesses. You can then fine-tune your personal development programme accordingly.

1. How and where do I have influence? Influence - not position or power - makes a leader successful. What is my current level of influence? How often do others turn to me for direction or approval? Do I see evidence of my influence both above and below me on the organizational chart? Who influences me and how? Remember, we often adopt both the strengths and weaknesses of those around us, so make sure you are not being influenced in a way that leads you away from your goals.
2. Where can I improve my people skills? Someone can lead for a season based on position or problem-solving ability, but success in the long run depends on the ability to get along with and develop people. How can I improve my listening skills? How can I discover what motivates those I lead?
3. Do I have a positive outlook? A positive attitude alone doesn't identify a capacity for leadership, but a negative spirit will always diminish a person's leadership potential. The ability to master your own emotions gives you a sizeable advantage during crisis situations. Never forget that a crisis situation is precisely when leadership is most noticed and valued.
4. Do I see evidence of growth in self-discipline? Am I disciplined in my use of time? Do I willingly delay gratification in order to achieve worthwhile goals? Are there any evidences of lack of self-discipline in my appearance or work habits?

5. Do I have a proven track record of success in my assignment? Busyness is not an accurate indicator of success. Some people work like crazy and never accomplish anything. Past success is a key predictor of future success. What have I accomplished that I am proud of? Did those accomplishments include others? How does my experience relate to what I need today? Am I willing to put forth the effort again?
6. How are my problem-solving skills? Many people are impressed with their ability to spot a problem. Identifying a problem is easy; just about anyone can do it. Leaders must solve problems. In fact, where there are no problems, there is no need for leadership. Problem solvers don't dwell on what went wrong or who was to blame. Instead, they spend their energies on finding a solution.
7. Do I refuse to accept the status quo? Growing leaders value progress over security. Not only are they dissatisfied with what is; they have a vision for what can be. The person who resists the status quo is willing to take a risk, be different, and pay the price for victory.
8. Do I have a big-picture mindset? How often do you step back to maintain perspective, especially in the face of distractions or pressure? Keeping a sense of direction when the fog of fatigue or criticism sets in is a trait of a gifted leader. Self-evaluation is not for the faint-hearted. An honest assessment by these diagnostic questions will make you aware of at least a couple of areas where you need to sharpen your skills. The question is - will you?