

## Leadership by Example

By Bill Moyer

There have been literally hundreds of books written on leadership in the past 10 years, yet it is still a mystery to most people. There are many myths surrounding leadership – for example, “Leadership is a rare skill,” “Leaders have a dynamic personality”, or “Leaders control people or situations by manipulation.”

The reality is that leadership is an art and not a science. It is learned behavior that when mastered, causes others to follow you. People are motivated by your passion for your mission in life and by your example that you set in living out your mission. They’re moved to action by your example and not by your words. Everything you do counts! You are always leading by example even when you don’t intend to.

**Some important tips to help you lead by example are:**

- ◆ Admit when you are wrong.
- ◆ Share the credit and take the blame.
- ◆ Praise others in public but criticize in private.
- ◆ Always be on time.
- ◆ Trust your people or find people you do trust.
- ◆ Do what you say you will do.
- ◆ Try new things and encourage others to stretch.
- ◆ Return your calls promptly and don’t make excuses when you don’t.



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- ◆ Stand behind your people.
- ◆ Network with others outside your field.
- ◆ Follow the Golden Rule- “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Leaders always work on themselves first. By constantly filling your mind with positive thoughts, you’re energized to lead others by your positive example.

Listening to audio books in your car, reading success books or articles, and focusing on achieving your full potential will place you in the top three percent of all successful people in your chosen field. That leaves 97 percent looking for someone like you to lead them.

W. Clement Stone stated: “If you employed study time, thinking time, and planning time daily, you could develop and use the power that can change the course of your destiny.”

By your example, you can lead others to change the course of their destiny.

## The Benefits of a Positive Self-Image

When you set and achieve goals to improve your self-image, to commit yourself to their attainment, and to take action to bring those goals into reality, you begin to develop a more positive self-image than you ever dreamed possible. A positive self-image, in turn, reinforces your courage and confidence. You’re then capable of undertaking even more lofty and challenging goals.

Developing a positive self-image is based on the principle that each of us is the product of what we think and what we believe about our abilities. The only practical world is the one within ourselves – the world in which we develop courage and self-confidence and a more positive self-image. It’s here that we motivate ourselves to transform goals into tangible realities.

The magnetic force of a positive self-image is a leadership tool that will help you become all that you can be and also bring out the best in your team members. Your unique quality of self-confidence will generate many benefits, including the following: • A contagious enthusiasm for life • Genuine concern for others • A positive personality that people enjoy being around • Enhanced people skills • Clarity of purpose • Firm commitment to worthwhile goals • Increased productivity • An aura of power and authority which enables you to inspire and lead others.

Developing your self-image can be the most rewarding adventure of your life. It’s the first step toward the achievement of goals that will benefit yourself, your team members, and your organization as well.