

DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN YOU 2.0

by John C. Maxwell

The revised editions of Developing the Leader Within You breaks down the misconceptions around truly influential leadership.

INFLUENCE IS THE DEFINITION OF LEADERSHIP

The best investment in tomorrow is to develop your influence today. If you are communicating effectively, you will get positive recognition for your communication from the audiences you are trying to influence. This means people will think what you are doing is right and that you are doing it in the right way. When you get positive recognition, your influence grows. You are perceived as competent, effective, worthy of respect – powerful.

Are you being proactive when it comes to influencing others in a positive way?

CHARACTER MATTERS

'Diseases' of bad leaders include:

- Thinking we are immortal, immune, or downright indispensable – which is the enemy of humility and service.
 - Excessive busyness – which leads to stress and agitation.
 - Leadership Alzheimer's disease – where leaders forget who nurtured and mentored them.
 - Downcast faces – where leaders treat their "inferiors" with sour severity.
 - Excessive planning and functionalism – which leads to inflexibility.
- Having poor character will eventually derail your goals to lead.

How do people perceive you as a friend, student and leader?

FOCUS ON SOLUTIONS

Problems are only problems if you allow them to be.

They actually hold potential benefits, which is why problem-solving is the quickest way to gain leadership. Problems introduce us to ourselves, to others and to opportunities. Good leaders anticipate problems so they can position themselves and their team for success.

What potential problems do you see in your world, and what is your game plan to fix them when they happen?

"To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often."
– WINSTON CHURCHILL

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THREE STEPS TO BE A BETTER LEADER

START WITH TWO

Pick two people in your life right now with whom to intentionally build your influence. Choose one important person from your school life, maybe your teacher, a fellow student or someone in a different grade. And choose one important person from your personal life, perhaps a parent, or friend.

Determine which level of leadership you are currently on with each person. Then see if you can progress to the next one.



WORK WITH 'JUST FOR TODAY'

Just for today . . . I will choose and display the right attitudes.

Just for today . . . I will embrace and practise good values.

Just for today . . . I will determine and act upon important priorities.

Build your character and self-discipline one day and one good habit at a time.

LEARN & UNLEARN

Learn... and unlearn

What do you need to learn today that you didn't know yesterday?

And what do you need to let go of that you held onto yesterday?

Keep learning and growing as you accept the challenge of guiding others and influencing positive change.¹⁶

"When you decide to serve others as a leader, the team's success becomes your success."