

CEO of Your Life

Begin to think of yourself as a CEO, as a leader, the one who makes decisions about your life. You are the Donald Trump of your own life. (You may not like his methodologies or mannerisms, but no one has ever wondered who's in charge when he's in the boardroom.) Your team members are those whose contributions affect the quality of your life.

Remember my friend that God is the owner of your team but gave you authority to run it. Like Adam in the garden, you have power to subdue and have dominion, and you must know that the earth is the Lord's but God has given you the task to run it. I like this understanding of ownership and stewardship. God owns your life, but you care for it. This gives you the power to make the necessary decisions in your life and moves you from victimhood to being a victor. The next great decision is yours to make.

Now you may not feel like you are CEO of your own life, or if you do, you may wonder why you always feel on the verge of emotional bankruptcy or a hostile takeover by those around you. But you alone have the responsibility to make the choices that will affect your own performance, productivity, profitability. You have stakeholders and shareholders, those that support you and those that compete with you. In the corporate world, at the end of the day, it is the CEO sitting in her corner office who is held responsible for the bottomline. Similarly, you are the one sitting in the executive's chair in your life and if you don't guide your personal corporation, then you will miss the chance to reap the dividends for which you were created.

Understanding that you are the leader of your life, you must move away from being a peacemaker to being a policy maker. Your goal is not to keep peace but to develop policies.

In the process of being a great CEO of your life, you can expect to be controversial, face conflict, commit fully and exercise character. Each of these four qualities—controversy, conflict, commitment, move away from being a peacemaker to being a policy maker. Your goal is not to keep peace but to

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If you consider yourself a leader, then you understand that it is rarely an easy job or one that necessarily makes you very popular. If you don't consider yourself a leader, perhaps you are not taking responsibility for the decisions you make in your life and are relying too much on others to lead the way. You can be a leader at home and/or at work.

Leadership at home is the mother who encourages her kids to donate their toys to the local shelter when they no longer play with them, or the father who teaches his son the value of honesty when he walks with him to tell the next door neighbor that he damaged his tree while riding his new mini bike.

Leadership at home is the couple who rather than engaging in screaming, yelling and name calling when they disagree, calmly talk to each other, state their perspective and respectively listen to the other's point of view, so, by example, teaching their children how to disagree with another person but let their needs be known.

Leadership does not only apply to people in positions of "power" such as presidents or corporate CEOs. You show leadership in the way you choose to live your life, the way you interact with others no matter what their social status, and the example you set for your family, friends and others you come into contact with.

develop policies, and character—emerge from your willingness to exercise character. You must be willing to examine what’s inside yourself and to choose the kind of leader you want to be. Without the deliberate choice to lead, the preparation necessary to inform your decisions, and the will to follow through, your team will flounder searching for someone to direct them. I have never seen a leader who didn’t have these four characteristics.