



# Leadership in the context of being human

- Clive Wilson, Primeast, UK



**Children and elderly people alike remind us that getting things done in life is a journey set in the context of being human**

There are many facets to being human but today let's explore two key thoughts: *we only get one shot* – and *who is a leader?*

## **We only get one shot**

It is helpful to be reminded that **this life of ours is real - it is not a rehearsal**. And, whatever our belief about an after-life, we only get one shot at this one. So isn't it worth thinking about what we want to achieve?

One way to focus the mind is to write our own epitaph. What would we like to be remembered for? What do we want people to say? Take a few moments to consider the headlines. Make sure you think of all aspects of your life – family, home, career, leisure, health and so on.

In fulfilling our chosen purpose, we will inevitably share our journey with others. We may need their help. We may want to influence them, their lives and their journeys. Which takes us to a second key question about what it is to be human in terms of leadership – **who is a leader and for that matter, who isn't?**

## **Who is a leader and who isn't?**

This question can be answered in many seemingly opposing ways but the purpose of asking the question is not to start an academic debate. One view of leadership, which is the one I subscribe to, is that most people are leaders. It is helpful to take this stance for the following reasons:

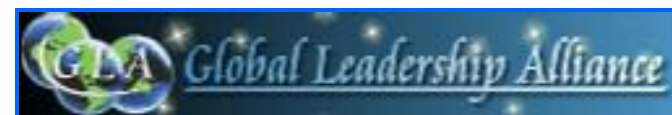
Once people make a judgement that they or someone else are not leaders, they may be immediately cutting off the opportunity for significant personal growth – growth which could be incredibly valuable as life unfolds. Similarly, labelling someone as a leader might stop them seeking skills of followership and service which in turn are amazing life and business skills.

The truth is that we all lead and we all follow. Parents are probably the world's most important leaders. They shape our future generations. But most Mums and Dads receive little training in leadership – unless they happen to have jobs where this is a fundamental requirement.

Take the leader / follower concept a stage further. If we pause for a moment we will surely identify aspects of our lives where we fall into both these categories. But there are also situations in meetings, discussions and teamwork where we bounce around the leader and follow roles on an ongoing basis.

The same can be said of other apparent opposites. I can think of several situations where formally I have been in the tutor or teacher role, yet the journey has unfolded in a way that I have been blessed to learn a great deal from my students or participants. Awareness of this concept can be a "light-bulb moment" for many people which, when grasped, opens their interest to new learning and enhanced life skills.

**Take a few moments to establish some examples where you are a leader and also where you have an opportunity to follow. What can you do with this insight?**



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