

## Identify Common Blind Spots

There are certain “I” words that describe elements of effective leadership. These words include *initiative, insight, influence, imagination, ideas, improvements, increase, inclusiveness, information, integrity, intelligence* and *intuition*.

However, there are “I” words that prevent leaders from being effective.

### • Ignorance

Ignorance is not an absence of knowledge; it is the failure to see beyond our own perspective. It is a self-imposed ignorance. When we ignore the perspective and perceptions of others, we are setting ourselves up for a blind spot blowup.

Some people approach their work this way: “Save time. See if my way.”

### • Insecurity

“No man will be a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all of the credit for doing it.”

—Andrew Carnegie

“Nothing is a greater impediment to being on good terms with others than being ill at ease with yourself.”

### • Inconsiderate

Leadership is all about relationships. You never give your best to others if you don’t value people you lead and serve.

### • Impeccability

Impeccability involves ego—the appearance of never making a mistake, talking about oneself, etc.

### • Indispensability

“Pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes.”

—John Ruskin

*Pride* is concerned about *who* is right. *Humility* is concerned about *what* is right.

### • Imitation

Some leaders try to project the image and persona of

another organization or leader on themselves and their people. However, strong leaders must become contextualized to their own organization.

### • Inversion

Some leaders compensate for their weaknesses rather than tapping into their strengths.

### • Indecision

Indecision breeds insecurity due to indecisive action and direction. A leader must be willing to seek advice when needed.

## Dealing With Your Blind Spot

### • Admit it.

It is best to quickly identify

and admit your blind spots in order to come to terms with them.

### • Ask about it.

Seek the opinion and advice of others.

### • Address it.

Opening talk about blind spots with key people. You need others to “cover” you. Be sure they know you and they understand why you need them.

### • Accept it.

You need help from other people. Since you can’t eliminate blind spots, you need others to help cover and support you.

### • Allow for it.

Leaders are like quarterbacks. They don’t get paid to run the ball; they get paid to get the ball to those who can score. Let others who have strengths in your “blind spot” areas empower, help and enable you.

### • Appreciate it.

Responsibilities are covered when you appreciate the roles of others in helping you with your blind spots.

“You can do what I cannot do and I can do what you cannot do and together we can do great things.”

—Mother Teresa



RED FLAGS FOR

# Life & Leadership

## #4: Blind Spots, Part 2