

My teleology is linked to my leadership style. I believe I exist for the purpose of learning. I am here to learn about my personal strengths and weaknesses. I am also here to lead others in finding their own personal strengths and to build upon them. I also believe that I am here on Earth to teach and care for others. This thoroughly describes and explains my leadership style. My leadership style is ingrained in all that I do, primarily through caring about people and their well-being. I tend to build close relationships with the people who surround me. The development of forming the relationships has both positive and negative characteristics.

The positive characteristics are: a desire to learn from each person's strengths and weakness, while at the same time, creating a sense of team--bonded with tolerance, respect and understanding. Gleaning from the strengths and weakness of those who interact with me allows intellectual growth, wisdom, personal mastery and the ability to approach and respect issues from and of different perspectives. I gain satisfaction with these types of relationships and the personal growth that comes with them.

On the negative side of my leadership style, I give too much of myself away. I make sacrifices of valuable time and resources that could be utilized better. I spend too much personal energy trying to look good to others, so that they will follow me or not present any harm to me. I also, tend to become parent-like and try to provide for the needs of those who surround me, when they really can do that for themselves. I should opt to "teach them how to fish," rather than just give them the fish. This is an extremely expensive part of my personal framework.

Other concerns that come from the negative aspects of my leadership style are also on my mind. One, I do not do enough listening to those whom I lead, because I tend to assume I know what is best for them and what they are saying. This can be and has been expensive. My second concern is that after reading about the Style Approach Theory, I may truly fall into the leadership style of the "benevolent dictator" or of a "country club" style manager, which often hinders maximized success at both professional tasks and many areas within my non-professional personal life.

The ingredients in the prescription of my leadership style is mixed in a mortar of listening--true and effective listening, combined with effective analysis. I need to listen to

what each person is really trying to say to me, assessing the meaning behind their words and the reasons behind their perceptions. I can be a better leader if I can define what is wanted and why is it needed. The "why" defines importance, and "what" defines the mission or task. Included in the ingredients in my prescription is the development and usage of effective analytical skills and combining them wisdom derived from my past experiences.

The second step is developing a plan to accomplish personal mastery in my journey of leadership. Experience has shown me that one man does not have all the answers--they are derived from the combination of the efforts of many.

Step three in my prescription is a question phase or feedback phase. At the end of a day or completion of a task, I will ask myself and others questions that allow everyone involved to discover what worked well and what did not work well; then analyzing possible alternative solutions. The question phase or feedback phase helps build a sense of teamwork and allows for growth, creativity and future use of tools developed through wisdom. I become a better listener, learner, coach and therefore, a better leader.

I will be a more effective leader and have happiness derived in fulfilling my teleology, if I consistently follow my prescription and allow myself to grow through listening, working as a team player and analyzing ways to grow with each situation life gives to me.