

We The People
Program 101
Humility and Leadership



I like to observe society and watch my fellow Australians go about their business in this great democracy. With the passage of time I see a change occurring where the values of Australian society appear more self centered. It seems Australia fears its own future and fears that as a whole we have less control over our nation's destiny. I have specific concerns but this narrative is not focused on those things rather on one unique noble quality like no other. I believe we have lost our sense of humility.

History reveals the world's most worthwhile leaders reflect humility and without it, leadership is shallow. Humility in a higher sense means a person has a modest estimate of their own worth and submits themselves to others. In a spiritual sense a belief in the creator holds us truly accountable and sets the benchmark for being humble. I must say those with no sense of spirit always appear unfulfilled to me as the fruit of humility is inherent peace and contentment.

If you're wondering what's wrong with our leaders today just think about their capacity for humility. Without that value they are not impressive leaders at all and nothing but a shadow of real leadership. Displaying humility Winston Churchill said, *"In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet."* Abraham Lincoln wisely added, *"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."*

Great leaders in history give direction with humility and strength. It is not a sign of weakness, timidity or fear; it is an indication that we know where our true strength lies. We can be both humble and courageous. It's not the tall poppies we slash: it's the one's that act tall. So to the list of other desirable attributes in a leader being strength, integrity and passion, we must add the important modifier, humility. With humility, strength can be expressed with dignity and grace and integrity can be assumed without anyone's attention being drawn to it and passion can be focused on the task at hand, without spilling over into the lust for power. We Australians don't don't like those who 'big note' themselves and yet it seems we now tolerate those failures in our leaders. I think humility depends first on our view of strength and second on the breadth of our world. To lead humbly is to accept rank and use it on behalf of others and refusing status is strength of character. This is the strength of one of those whose world is bigger than their ego. This is the strength that enables a leader to pursue a noble dream in a noble way.

True humility is one of the most life enhancing of all virtues and it does not mean undervaluing or underestimating yourself. Look for kindness and strength, seek wisdom and purpose in others. Humility is the straight edge of memory; it checks the distortions of self-interest and challenges the tyranny of experts. We should foster humility in the young to cultivate the leaders of tomorrow because the leaders of today have failed us. Do you see arrogance in our leaders, I do and in abundance and I don't trust them with our country. I see greed and avarice in politics; I see hatred, thieves and liars. I see politicians so obsessed with power they will do or say anything to gain and to hold onto office regardless of the effect on our country. Political corruption is now at a tipping point in Australia where we should be alarmed at the posturing of our political leaders and their complete lack of concern for we the people. Sadly our countries leaders seem never to have heard of humility and it shows. Think long and hard and whenever you vote choose real leaders. Remember, empty vessels make the most sound.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley