# LEADERSHIP LESSON #11 - TEACHABILITY

## LESSON

Whether you're a student or a teacher, an amateur or professional, there's always room for improvement. Teachability is defined as, "The willingness and desire to learn; capable of being taught." The opposite of teachability may be described as arrogant self-satisfaction – a "know it all" attitude where pride prevents

## EXPLANATION

Have you ever encouraged an elderly person to buy an iPhone, work on a computer or try something that requires some degree of technological know-how? If so, a typical response is, "I don't think so. It's just too difficult." But why is this? What causes the person to shy away from a new endeavor, maybe even something adventurous? Perhaps the reason is simply they've bought into the notion that, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks". In reality, the truth is… they're just not teachable! Here are a few "up close and personal" questions for you to ponder over. How teachable are you…?

- Are you humble? Do you admit you don't know everything – That there is always something new to learn?
- Are you willing to accept constructive criticism, own up to mistakes and apologize when necessary?
- Are you a good listener or do you always have to be the one speaking?
- When was the last time you tries something new? If you really want to start growing, make new challenges part of your daily activities

## APPLICATION

Three quotes reminding us of the need for leaders to be teachable:

- "Sometimes you win. Sometimes you learn"
- "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" (Albert Einstein)
- "Value your listening and reading time at roughly ten times your talking time. This will assure you that you are on a course of continuous learning and self-improvement (Gerald McGinnis, President and CEO of Respironics, Inc

## DIRECTION

"As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly" (Proverbs 26:11)