



Leading Yourself First

Andy Stanley

“We face our greatest leadership challenge every morning in the mirror,” said Andy at Leadercast Live 2018. He believes we can be difficult to lead because we’ve mastered the art of deceiving ourselves and justifying our poor decisions.

Direction, not intention, determines destination, he said in his talk. We all want to end up somewhere on purpose, so we have to define values that can become a perimeter around our behaviors, thoughts, work and relationships.

Great leaders last because they lead themselves first, said Andy, and exceptional self-leadership is key to sustained influence and performance.

3 Decisions We Must Make to Lead Ourselves Well:

- 1) **I will not lie to myself, even when the truth makes me feel bad about myself.** Exceptional self-leadership requires brutal honesty with oneself.
- 2) **I will prioritize what I value most over what I want now.** Exceptional self-leaders lead themselves toward what they value most, not what they want now.
- 3) **I will not attempt to lead myself by myself.** Exceptional leaders do life with people who are moving toward similar values.