***LEADERSHIP***

Today I would like to share a passage from John Maxwell’s book “Leadership 101”. John says that “Trust is the foundation of leadership” and that “there are three qualities a leader must exemplify to build trust: ***COMPETENCE, CONNECTION, AND CHARACTER***.”

But what does all that mean? Let’s discuss!

***COMPETENCE*** is your ability to do your job, and do it well. This requires many hours of study and preparation strengthening your knowledge, skills, and abilities. It also requires self-discipline, and a willingness to devote yourself entirely to the performance of each task associated with your job and/or position.

***CONNECTION*** can mean many things, but I believe connection is a leader’s ability to effectively communicate at all levels with those around them. Effective communication is more than just it is more than just the words that we speak or the verbal and non-verbals signals we pick up when talking with someone. Real communication is also about relationship building.

Each of us communicates differently, but no matter what your particular communication style is, it must help form some type of mutually beneficial relationship with those you encounter. This relationship can be friendly or professional in nature, but it must always be built on mutual respect for each other.

Finally, ***CHARACTER*** is who we are and what we stand for and/or believe in. A person of great character is willing to make mistakes and learn from those mistakes. They will embody their personal and professional core values, not because they have to, but instead because they believe in them and they have made a conscious decision or choice to be the physical, mental, and emotional embodiment of those beliefs.

When I think about a leader’s character these are the traits I look for...and yes…the letters spell LEADERSHIP…pretty crafty huh?

**L**oyalty, **E**xcellence, **A**ccountability, **D**etermination, **E**nthusiasm, **R**espect, **S**elflessness, **H**umility, **I**ntegrity, **P**erseverance

So, as you start, or continue your leadership journey, remember that those who follow you are watching. In order for us to really influence them, we should strive to first build TRUST, by being competent in our roles, connecting with our teams, and embodying those values that are the foundation of who we are.