Courage:
The Marriage of Courage and Humility

As you grow and develop as a leader you will find two virtues important in becoming a successful leader: courage and humility. Several leadership authors have written about this unlikely pair. For example, Bill George, author of *True North: Discover Your Authentic Leadership*, calls the pair steps to finding your “True North.” Leaders’ courage ensures that they can make the right choices when required. Leaders’ humility allows them to be modest about their accomplishments and unassumingly share the glory with the rest of the team. And Stephen Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, suggests that the mother of all virtues is humility and the father is courage. Courage is critical for us to be able to lead our lives by correct principles and to have integrity in moments of choice.

**Part 1**
Identify how you balance humility and courage. Write down your thoughts.

- Why are both courage and humility important?
- Identify a time when you needed to be more humble. How did you feel during the situation? How do you feel about it now?
- Identify a time when you needed to act with courage, but didn’t. What happened? What would you do differently if you had the chance?
- Think about your growth as a leader. What are you doing to be more in tune with yourself and your needs?
- Which of the two—courage or humility—requires the most work on your part?
- What will you do to improve in these areas?

Re-read your notes in a week to capture additional ideas and thoughts. Do you still agree with what you wrote? What might you do differently?

**Part 2**
Ask several of your coworkers for their observations about your courage and humility. Take this opportunity to listen—really listen. Don’t disagree or make excuses. Jot down what they say. Ask for suggestions about how you might improve. Tell them that you will be working on these two leadership characteristics over the next month. Ask if they would be willing to observe you informally during that time and give you additional feedback at the end of the month. Then schedule a meeting with each. Use their observations and comments to learn about yourself.

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