

Rock Solid

Being You

BLOG

My eyes practically popped out of my head!

When I was around 10-years-old, my parents were the leaders of our church's junior high school ministry. On a balmy, summer Southern California night, they hosted a pool party at our home. (I loved having those 'older' kids come to MY home!). After some swimming, a couple cannonball dive contests, and a few chicken fights, a bunch of the students went out to the front yard. I couldn't believe what I saw. One of the students (Greg White...I still remember his name!), grabbed my skateboard (with metal wheels!) and did a hand-stand on it and rode it down the driveway!

The students went crazy. And I was mesmerized.

I knew right then who I wanted to be when I grew up—Greg White. No question. Game-set-match.

So every day, for the next several weeks, right after school, I would steal away into the secret confines of my backyard. First, I learned to do a head-stand. From there, I notched it up to a hand-stand. And then it was the day of destiny—time to do a hand-stand, not on the backyard dichondra, but on my concrete driveway!

As any athlete destined for the halls of greatness, I entered the “zone” trying to visualize my grand expedition down the driveway, but reality set in and all I could see were body parts sprawled like a yard sale across the sidewalk.

So much for growing up to be like Greg White.

You know it as well as I do. Stashed away in this story is an indispensable lesson of life and leadership: **you cannot be someone else**. You've got to be yourself—comfortable and secure with who you are.

Personal security isn't a high-profile topic in the leadership literature; but from my seat and experience, it should be. Chuck Swindoll said it well: *This reminds me of something about which too little has been said. I can think of few ingredients more foundational to being a good leader than knowing oneself—and accepting oneself—and feeling secure about oneself inside one's own skin. The scene is nothing short of tragic when an insecure person is given a leadership responsibility.*

Need a little convincing? Take a look at the Old Testament storyline of King Saul's intense jealousy of David and his battlefield successes. It's extreme. It's not pretty. And unfortunately, it's all too common.

In a word, leaders who possess personal security are at peace with who God has created them to be—which

IS a pretty picture. They have chosen daily to lean into the truth of Romans 12:6: *In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.* They see themselves as uniquely created by God—a work of art, a masterpiece.

As you review your own personal security, how are you doing?

Here are a few self-measurement questions to assist you in your assessment:

- Do I recognize and accept my strengths?
- Do I recognize and accept my limitations?
- Do I celebrate the strengths of those with whom I work?
- Do I intentionally make room for the contributions of those more gifted than myself?
- Do I freely offer up words of affirmation for those in my leadership circle?
- Do I pave the way for others to pass me by?

From there, I'd encourage you to take your personal security appraisal one step further by asking a close friend to offer a candid perspective.

While each of us from time to time will be enamored by the abilities of others, **there is arguably no greater gift you give to those you lead than knowing who you are, accepting who you are, and being who you are.**

At the end of the day, it's fundamental to leading with your life.