

I have purposely avoided the most obvious of the five leadership traits - charisma - until now.

Much leadership literature and research has centered around those who are gregarious and outgoing. An important part of my research and book centers around five faces of leadership (**integrity, quiet influence, perseverance, charisma, service**), each of equal importance, but the world targets the charismatic personality as leadership material whether the charisma is positive or negative, if you know what I mean. When we think of charisma, we think of the impression, "Look at me and how great I am!"

And yet, the most effective charismatic leaders are anything but needy for attention. I had the opportunity to attend a family reunion. There were almost 90 people at this event that lasted three days. One person we met and had an opportunity to visit with was John, a 2nd cousin once removed. He has some impressive statistics, accomplishments, and education, but what drew me in was his charisma, his genuine outgoing interest in others, is generous attention to acts of kindness. He "worked the room", which was outside for the most part, talking with elderly and kids, young adults and people his parents' ages. Years before I remember attending a family reunion, watching people huddle into groups that were within their comfort level, and not getting to really know those people they didn't already have a connection with. John made sure this reunion was different. He and his wife exuded a love for life and a passion for learning. He made everyone feel special and important. He was fun and gregarious without being egotistical or self-centered. Do I know his goals and pathways for his life? No. Do I know that he is growing as an effective leader and mentor? Yes.

Take time to go to his Drone One Media on Facebook or Instagram ([droneonemedia](#)) to see some of John's work - and get infected by his example of charisma as a positive attribute of leadership.