

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, December 6, 2014

Attitude may be one of the most critical traits found in our culture. As a young Human Resources professional I developed a real attitude to that word. One of my early tasks in the profession was to design performance evaluations for diverse employee groups. I called upon supervisors for input into what they considered to be the performance factors that needed to be assessed. Inevitably, every group felt there was a need to evaluate their employees' attitude about their work. I always had a problem with this since I could not see how they might possibly measure attitude since it was not quantifiable. Yet, I always gave in to the notion that it had value, since I needed the supervisors to buy into the system. What concerned me the most about this one particular evaluation criterion was my perceived attitude of the supervisors!

What it boils down to is simply this - we all have attitudes about all kinds of things. It's human nature to form opinions that sway the way we think and the way we act. You may be developing an attitude about where this discussion is going or that it may go somewhere you don't want it to go. Well, that's fine since you have a right to your attitude and I have a right to mine. Unfortunately, our attitudes can keep us from the truth and compassion for others. Our attitude can keep us from making valuable paradigm shifts in how we look at life in general and the lives of those we meet on a daily basis. It can greatly impact our business, our marriage, and our varied personal relationships. Right and wrong attitudes not only exist, but they greatly impact this world! As a staunch advocate of "free will" (My attitude is showing again!) I believe that we all need to take a hard look at the way we value others and try to understand that our Father in Heaven has made each of us into unique beings for His purpose. That diversity can be beautiful when seen through God's eyes, but from our perspective it appears to be dysfunctional and downright irritating.

I propose that the answer lies in striving to develop a "heart attitude" that is pleasing to God. King David was described as a man after God's own heart. Don't allow your mind and your past experiences to get in the way of seeing the beauty in God's perfect plan for each of His individual creations. Don't fall into the trap of judging others because they don't fit your perceptions of how you feel they should act. Yes, there are absolute truths, but we are not to be the judge or the jury. That's God's task and He simply wants us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love others as we love ourselves. Now that's having the right attitude!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: 1 Chronicles 28:9; Mark 12:29-31; Hebrews 10:19-22

Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior!

FOURTH QUARTER STRATEGIES – Saturday, December 6, 2014 - Verses

Passages to Ponder: 1 Chronicles 28:9; Mark 12:29-31; Hebrews 10:19-22

1 Chronicles 28:9 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

Mark 12:29-31 New King James Version (NKJV)

²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This *is* the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Hebrews 10:19-22 New King James Version (NKJV)

Hold Fast Your Confession

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.