

Do Good Anyway

The flow of news in newspapers or aired on radio and television is a daily reminder that the world is full of violence, chaos and ill will.

And despite the efforts of good people and organizations to create an atmosphere of cooperation and kindness, it is unrealistic to think we are going to eliminate from the face of the earth divisive, rude, evil people. Our only choice – unless we want to give in or give up – is to work around the evil.

Yes, this is an imperfect world, but that does not relieve us of our responsibility to work for what is good and right. If anything, the wrongdoing present in our world only accentuates the need for us to do something.

I like the poem by Kent M. Keith (then a sophomore at Harvard) in his *Ten Paradoxical Commandments* – written in 1968 as part of a book for student leaders – and inscribed on the wall of Mother Teresa's children's home in Calcutta:



ANYWAY

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.



(more)

These are important considerations – for both our personal and professional lives. They are the among the positive ways to spend our time on this earth.

Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us (Titus 2:7-8 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter