

Franklin and Humility

Benjamin Franklin was a cocky young man. He had supreme self-confidence and believed that no one who ever lived knew more or could do more than he.

But fortunately for him, at some point in his youth, he sensed that something was wrong. Things were not working out the way he had expected they would. Not all his projects were successful. Not all he said, even when true, was believed.

At that point, he showed some intelligence. He backed away and took a long, hard look at himself, with the result that he completely reformed. Now, in place of cocksure statements, he expressed himself in terms of utter humility. Now, in place of blurting out his opinions, he deftly asked the other persons for theirs. Now, instead of being dogmatic, he became exceedingly humble.

And that change of tack worked so well that it was not long before this youngster was the most successful man in his city, Philadelphia. And to this day, anyone who wants to explain the true course of success in the world – real success, success in many endeavors – cannot find a better example than Franklin.

During his long life, once he had reoriented himself and started trying to respect the personage and the ideas of others, Benjamin Franklin was never again at loggerheads with anyone. Wherever he went, he was revered. Whomever he met, he charmed; whatever he wanted for himself or for his country, he got.

It's a great lesson in humility for those of us in Life Care, Century Park or Life Care at Home that we can learn from this man; a lesson that can have only one result – vastly improved human relations, and more success in all our dealings with residents, family members, associates and the public.

--Beecher Hunter