

Photographer of Celebrities

In *Guideposts* magazine sometime back, there was an article about Hollywood photographer Harry Langdon Jr. As he himself pointed out, you probably don't know who he is, but you've probably seen his work.

He took pictures of Jane Fonda for her workout video. He photographed Ronald Reagan shortly after he became president. His credits include a host of Hollywood celebrities.

Langdon said the key to taking good pictures is to find the "edge" in photographs. The "edge," he said is that extra oomph that catches your eye and draws you to look at the subject.

Langdon tried to use anger and coercion to find that edge until he bumped into a salesgirl at a health food counter one day. She was wearing a sweatshirt with the phrase "*The truth will make you free*" printed on it.



Langdon was intrigued. He didn't feel free. He felt trapped. He felt that his life wasn't worth anything. He actually felt he was using the people he was photographing. So he got into a conversation with this salesgirl, and the next thing he knew, she was inviting him to her church. Even more amazingly, he accepted.

And he found Christ there. He found truth there. He found freedom there, just as he was promised. At first, however, his newfound belief made a disaster for him at his studio. He tried to convert everyone who came in by pointing out the error of their ways. His clients began to back away. His income dwindled.

Finally, Langdon went to his pastor to learn what he was doing wrong. "I know you mean well," the pastor said, "but people sense judgment in you. The Bible is very clear that we are to love others and leave the judging to God."

So Langdon changed again. It took time, but now, he said, he sees people in a new light. He sees them as the people God made them to be. And that's the picture he focuses on. Unfortunately, many Christians are not able to do that, and they drive others away from the faith.

At the heart of the gospel is the concept of relationship – a relationship with Christ, a relationship with others. A person who is in Christ will be a better neighbor, a better spouse, a better parent and a better member of the community.

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We in Life Care and Century Park understand that principle. Our companies are built on relationships – with our Savior, first, but then with our customers and co-workers.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Jesus Christ, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter