



A Monthly Newsletter Featuring Bryan Dodge

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PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Good Life Principle - Making a Difference

One of the principles of making a Good Life for ourselves is to focus on others and make a difference in their life. This article brings home how good we have it in comparison.

By the Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann

Reflecting on the violence in the world and the difficulty of people living in harmony and peace, I happened upon the following analysis of world demographics. As I read them, I understand why people can't get along with each other.

If we could reduce the world's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all existing human ratios remaining the same, the demographics would look something like this:

Sixty of the 100 would be Asians;
Twelve of the 100 would be Europeans;
Five of the 100 would be U.S. or Canadian;
Eight of the 100 would be Latin Americans;
Fourteen of the 100 would be Africans;
Forty-nine of the 100 would be female;
Fifty-one of the 100 would be male;
Eighty-two of the 100 would be non-white;
Eighteen of the 100 would be white;
Eighty-nine of the 100 would be heterosexual;
Eleven of the 100 would be homosexual;
Thirty-three would be Christian;
Sixty-seven would be non-Christian.

In this village of 100, 5 percent would control 32 percent of the entire world's wealth, and all of them would be U.S. citizens; 80 would live in substandard housing; 24 would not have electricity; 67 would be unable to read; only one would have a college education, 50 would be malnourished and one dying of starvation; 33 would be without access to a safe water supply; one would have HIV; one near death; two would be near birth; seven people would have Internet access.

From this condensed perspective, if you woke up this morning with more health than sickness, you are luckier than the million that will not survive this week. If you have never experienced a war, the loneliness of an imprisonment, an agony of torture, or a famine, you are happier than 500 million persons in this world. If you are able to go to church, mosque or synagogue without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are happier than 3 billion persons in this world.

If there is a meal in your refrigerator, if you are dressed and have shoes, if you have a bed and a roof above your head, you are better off than 75 percent of the people in this world. If your parents are still alive and still married, then you are a rarity. If you have a bank account, money in your purse, some trifle in your coin box, you belong to 8 percent of well-provided people.

What's wrong with this picture? There is a great divide. Perhaps therein lies the root of the violence, hatred, killing, in our world. In our little village of 100 people, with the reality as stated, there would be turmoil. That village is our world. We let it be that way. If anyone trods on what we have or tries to take away our freedom, enjoyed by a small minority in our village, we would unleash our weapons of mass destruction.

This is your world! You are able to make a difference!

If you feel that you cannot make a difference in this world, then I ask you to read this article again. I believe that the reason people lose the energy to make a difference is the misunderstanding of the reality of their own situation. Once you see what you have, and stop looking for all the things that you don't have, you can move forward towards making the difference that is truly needed in the world today. I hope you can see that your focus matters and it is your choice. Always remember, if you choose to make a difference in this world, you must first search for a way to do so. Rarely does a good idea in this area of your life ever really interrupt you on your path. One person caring about another person represents one of life's greatest gifts

PERSONAL FINANCIAL TIP

Retirement

When I am speaking with my Debtwork students, I always tell them that the overall mission is to alleviate financial stress and create strong investing habits. We all have a picture of our dream retirement. I can guarantee that if a proven debt-elimination plan is not a part of your overall retirement strategy, then your retirement dream will definitely turn out differently than you expected. With retirement in mind, I wanted to share with you this article I came across in the money area at www.msn.com. It has some points about retirement that I had never really thought of.

4 Common Retirement Blind Spots

By [MP Dunleavy](#)

We kid ourselves that the Retirement Fairy will rescue us. But the truth is: we're on our own. Here's how to break free of the myths.

Retirement planning is something most people put off for as long as possible -- and for good reason. It's terrifying.

In reviewing my own retirement plans and those of the Women in Red (WIR) -- a grueling journey of hope and fear -- I discovered some gaping holes in our assumptions about how retirement works.

There are the great mysteries, of course, like compound interest and safe withdrawal rates. But this column is about some common blind spots to which we all fall prey at times. Although they seem small, they add up to a classic case of "what you don't know can really hurt you."

If any of this sounds familiar, it's time to wake up and recalculate exactly how you plan to finance the future:

I can work until I'm 70 or older

The increasing longevity of the average American is a popular topic. Unfortunately, it has inspired everyone from policymakers to financial planners to imagine a world where we'll all be working until our teeth fall out.

Alas, I played along by making 70 the target retirement age for each of the WIR. (Some of us intend to work even longer -- Anna plans to work until she's 90 and live until 120).

There are some problems with the Eternal Work Plan:

Working until you drop just isn't as much fun as it sounds.

You may have difficulty finding or keeping a job that you'd want to do at that age. The American Association of Retired Persons found in a recent survey that 80% of those responding had encountered age bias when job hunting.

You may not be able physically to work as long as you'd like. The number of disability claims rises sharply as people age. Data from the Social Security Administration indicates that 63% of disability claims were filed by those 50 and over.

According to Elise Gould, a labor economist at the Economic Policy Institute, many people stop or are forced to quit working long before so-called retirement age. Some people are wealthy enough to retire early voluntarily, Gould acknowledges, "but that's not true for the vast majority," she says.

Rather, health problems and other life events, like needing to care for an aging relative or spouse, often prevent people from working. "There's also the fact of age discrimination in the market," she adds.

Moment of clarity: You may indeed be hale and hearty enough to tote your own barge at 75 or 80 -- but don't use the Eternal Work Plan as an excuse for not saving now, while you still can. Rather, suggests Steven Sass, associate director of research at the Center for Retirement Research (CRR) at Boston College, "Keep work as a contingency plan as you approach retirement. It can make a huge difference." If you're willing and able.

I can count on Social Security

Most experts agree that Social Security will still exist when even the youngest of the Women in Red retire. The question is: How much of those benefits can you count on?

For the sake of simplicity, each of the retirement plans in the series was based on the assumption that each woman would start collecting the maximum benefits at age 70.

The trouble is that, between rising Medicare premiums and taxes on benefits, those of us retiring in, say, 25 or 30 years will see a drastic cut in the after-tax value of Social Security benefits, according to a study by the CRR.

Right now, accounting for taxes and Medicare, Social Security benefits replace about 39% of the average wage earner's salary, says Sass. By 2030, that will drop to about 29%. "That's a huge, huge cut."

Moment of clarity: Financial planner Sharon Rich is among those who take a strong stand against including Social Security benefits in your retirement calculations at all. She recommends leaving them out entirely. "That way, if you get anything, it's gravy."

I'm saving for a better future

One of the biggest flaws in most people's plans -- my own included -- is the vague notion that somehow retirement includes a lifestyle upgrade. Sorry.

I realized this terrible misconception after we'd calculated the nest egg for two or three of the WIR, and each was predicted to yield something less than the woman's current income. That's not what most of us are hoping for, yet financially it's where we're headed.

Meaning: Unless you're starting very young, or saving more than 15% of your income, you'll be doing well to have more or less the same income, purchasing power and standard of living in retirement that you have right now.

So if you can't afford Caribbean cruises and trips to Europe now, don't expect the Retirement Fairy to buy your tickets when you're 65.

Lyndsey and Stephanie, as the young 'uns, are in the best shape to be able to increase their nest eggs because they have not yet reached their peak earning years.

They could end up saving far more than what we projected based on their current incomes of about \$50,000 each.

Jill also has the potential to enjoy a better standard of living in retirement because she is a) very ambitious and b) works in a field that can provide high six-figure incomes -- which she's working hard to attain.

As for me (a writer), Beth (working toward a degree as a massage therapist), Anna (who works for a non-profit) and Tricia (a secretary who just opened a consignment shop) -- the Magic 8 Ball has this to say: "Reply hazy. Ask again later."

Moment of clarity: Unless you know your income will rise substantially, you have some reckoning to do -- and additional savings to sock away -- if you dream of a better quality of life in your golden years than you have now.

Thank goodness for my inheritance

More than a few people saw dollar signs when the news of "the greatest intergenerational wealth transfer" was bandied about in recent years. Economists have estimated that anywhere from \$10 trillion to \$136 trillion will be bequeathed as older generations pass away.

If you were like me, you looked hard at your own parents and said, "Not bloody likely!"

But even those of us not waiting for a fat inheritance might be tempted to hope that Mom or Dad's life insurance, condominium or secret hoard of gold might one day be added to our own coffers. And that's a temptation to be avoided.

In an article published by the Federal Reserve Board of Cleveland, "The Baby Boomers' Mega-Inheritance -- Myth or Reality?" economists Jagadeesh Gokhale and Laurence Kotlikoff list a few reasons why, Boomer or Gen-Xer, you shouldn't count on family money:

Your parents don't care. According to their data, "only 22% of households headed by someone over 65 expect to leave a sizeable bequest."

Your parents are spendthrifts. "Recent research shows that elderly Americans' propensity to consume out of their resources has risen dramatically since 1960."

Your parents may remarry. Wealthy parents might remarry late in life and dash your plans to inherit. In case your brain needs jogging, I have three words for you: Anna Nicole Smith.

The odds are against you. According to the authors' calculations, only 1.6% of heirs will get \$100,000 or more.

Moment of clarity: You're on your own, kid.

Sincerely,
Keith Phildius

"Working On Your Debt Matters"

SPECIAL OFFER

Here at Dodge Development we are gearing up for the end of the year and looking towards 2023. If you own a business or are part of an organization that is looking for some inspiration ask yourself these questions.

Is it time for you to go to the next level in your business?

Are you as effective a leader as you would like to be?

Do you feel you are stuck in a rut?

Are you ready to realize your full potential?

Do you feel like you are capable of so much more – but can't find the answer?

Are you ready for more energy to achieve that **OVERWHELMING SUCCESS?**

You will discover what thousands of highly successful individuals in Bryan's seminars have learned.

- The key differences between the "why" and the "how" in life.
- Why it is time for you to take ownership of leadership of your own life.
- Why you need to get energized, both personally and professionally.
- The most important element that all successful people have in common.

- How to become a leader who can influence anyone, anywhere, anytime!
- The benefits of looking for the best in people.
- How to avoid stress and choose to be happy.
- The positive results of focusing on the things you can control.
- Why you must control negativity that will cripple your success.
- Why you must find love in your relationships.
- Great inspirational stories
- And much more!

People are depending on you, so let Bryan Dodge inspire and motivate you and your associates! Be prepared for your personal and professional life to skyrocket when you apply Bryan's timeless principles to your life.

If you have never experienced Bryan live during one of his programs, the following are what others have said about Bryan and his message:

"I wanted to thank you for sharing your time with our team yesterday. I can't explain to you how you have changed my life with the information and experiences you have shared during the times I have listened to you speak. You have a gift of saying those small things that make a difference. Not only did you make a difference in my life, but I was able to share my experience with someone else and make a difference in their life."

Todd Pomeroy
ADT Security Systems

"Thanks for the inspiration last week. I was wowed at the time and am still on cloud nine! I thoroughly enjoyed hearing you speak, took lots of notes, listened intently, was moved, and am now ready to 'Make This Year My Best Ever!'"

Denise Wilson
Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International

"[Your presentations make] me reflect on what I need to do to become a better leader, husband, father, and person. I can only hope that our paths cross again. You are truly inspiring."

Lawrence "Skip" Avery
CMAA Badger Chapter

"Bryan touches your soul and makes you want to be a better person and better leader. After one show, I knew we had a winner. Since then, standing-room-only crowds say it all."

Linda Keith
International Pizza Expo

"So what more could you stuff into an hour in terms of words of wisdom and entertainment? You were just the booster shot I needed and I think the rest of my staff shared a similar opinion as well. To say that I was pleased with the results of your efforts is an understatement."

Dates are filling up fast and he's only one person and can only be at one place at a time! Reach out and inquire today how you can book Bryan for your next event!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Political & Spiritual Leader (1869 – 1948)

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE LEADER

Leadership in Managing a Budget

Budget: it is not a popular word to most people. But a budget can be one of the best management tools you have. After all, most for-profit companies are formed to make money and generate a profit. Merriam-Webster defines a budget as “a plan for adjusting expenses during a certain period to the expected income for that period.”

Whether you are responsible for a large corporate budget, a smaller company budget, a department budget, or even a family budget, here are some benefits of following a budget.

- 1) A budget helps you see things more clearly. It gives you a financial picture of where you need to go. It gives you guidelines within which to manage.
- 2) A budget will help you determine values and priorities. The most important part is separating needs and wants, necessities from luxuries.
- 3) A budget provides a basis for discussion and agreement when expenditures are requested.
- 4) A budget provides a basis for accountability. An effective manager will rarely go over budget without reason.
- 5) A budget keeps a company from unnecessary debt.
- 6) A budget guides a company to live within its income.

Managing money successfully is really about character and good judgment. It's about being creative and finding ways to increase production, while at the same cutting costs. It's about always finding ways to be more efficient and thrifty. Managing finances successfully and being financially literate determines your level of leadership. It is a simple biblical principle—in the parable of money managers, the lesson taught is “He who is faithful with little will be given more.”



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