



**New year's resolutions – already fallen away?
...mmmmm. Rather try a
New LIFE resolution!**

Transformation

July 2016

Listening to the varying opinions about transformation I felt the need to chip in, and hopefully help to encourage people to take a wider view. Quota systems, affirmative action, labour unions, gender equality groups and the like came into being to support people who have been discriminated against and treated unfairly. Social activists and policy makers have thus formed interest groups to force the pace of change by making new rules. This can help the cause, but there is a trap we must avoid: *When we make rules to give one person (or any specific group of people) an advantage (even if it is for the noble aim of making up for past injustices) we must not repeat the mistake of creating an advantage for one (or for some) at the expense of another (or others).*

We need rules to maintain order; but we should all be wondering why we need so many rules to force the needed change. In my view, there are 2 common reasons:

1. Our leaders have failed to inspire the relevant people to make the relevant changes;
2. The relevant people have refused or failed to make the necessary changes.

Humanity is in a constant mode of change and we should all see transformation as an acceptable norm. I think every part of our civilisation needs some form of transformation, but it is transformation of the human mind that needs the most attention. We just do not have enough people to act in the interest of humanity as a whole – and we have too many who act only in their own interest, or that of their interest groups. I guess we still have much to learn about inspiring people to do what's right, which is why we constantly resort to force.

We must all work for a better future and resist any temptation to join groups who are intent on outdoing one another instead of finding ways to work together. We must start developing a better crop of leaders for the future, and focus on principle-based teaching if we want to develop more principled leaders. This must start in our homes, in our churches and in our schools – where the foundation of human development is set; and we can achieve a great deal if we seriously adopt two simple principles:

1. *We must treat others as we want to be treated.*
2. *We must realise that two wrongs do not make a right.*

These are things most people know, but very few apply; so if we want to teach these principles effectively we must adopt two more principles:

1. *What we preach is not worth much unless we practise it;*

2. *The best way to lead is by setting the example.*

We live with far too much inequality and our affairs on this planet are dominated by unfair practises. So this is a very unfair place! Still, this is no reason to give up hope; instead it should give us reason to do more! I have decided to focus on things that are within my control rather than those I cannot control. In order to make our world a fairer place I know that we need more fair people, and I can be one of them. So whilst I may not be positioned to make everything fair, it is well within my power to become a fair person. I can then promote a sense of fair-play and influence one person, and then another, and pray that these people will continue to influence others in the same way. This small step is surely more fulfilling than complaining and leaving the work for others. I will therefore make fair play a priority in my life and I hope to inspire many more to join me in this cause; so I ask humbly that you share these ideas with those close to you. And while you are at it, let's do a bit more: Let us adopt another key principle '*Those who want to lead must first become servant*'.

I pledge to abide by these principles to help with the process of continuous transformation:

1. *I will learn to inspire people to do the right thing rather than resort to force.*
2. *I will strive to inspire people to do the right thing rather than resort to force.*
3. *I will treat others as I want to be treated.*
4. *I will constantly remind myself that two wrongs do not make a right.*

-Chris Lew

Challenge yourself with:

What can I do this week to get past the 1st four steps?

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