EMCS2400: Effective Leadership

Post-Work: Assignment - Compose an Ethical Credo

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*“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”*

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Letter from Birmingham Jail"

My Morehouse brother spoke for all of us when he spoke these words and they could not be more true today. In our hyper connected world where thoughts, words and information travels to almost every part of the globe in a matter of milliseconds, we find ourselves linked both metaphorically and literally. As a software engineer I’ve built hundreds of tools to leverage this network, some of my own conceptualization and some that were not. After reflecting on my experiences I have come to the conclusion that it’s my next interaction, with the next human I meet or talk to that counts.

I cannot control the tides of fate, I cannot help everyone who is homeless on the streets, I cannot protect every woman who suffers from an abusive spouse; but I may in the next few moments talk to someone before they make the decision to commit suicide or share eye contact and smile with a transgender woman that has struggle with self hate. Flowery statements of ethical belief are lovely, and sometimes inspiring, but Love, expressed in the moment, clear and authentic is more powerful than any weapon, more indelible than any inked word and transcendent beyond time, space and generation.

If we lift ourselves to higher standards of behavior, but do not make the effort to lift others in the most mundane of circumstances then our credo is dead. This passage from the Gospel of Matthew illustrates it very clearly:

**Matthew 25:31-46**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the [a]holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Therefore, I seek to fulfill a simple credo, one that respects the value of our human bond, by simple declaring that “I will communicate from a place of Love with the people I interact with. Be authentic in my commitment to listen. And make every effort to build up the sense of Trust among us.” So much so that Dr. King’s words will ring true, “Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”