EP 45 - Principle #13 - Make wrong things right

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This is part 13, the last of our summer PRINCIPLES series. It can be listened to by itself, but for greater context refer back to the intro Episode #32.

Note that the principles in this series are what work for me. They allow me to thrive and live my values as best as I can. I'm not advocating the adoption of my specific set of principles. Rather I'm attempting to showcase the power of principles by providing more context on how they can be defined, codified, and embedded into the thoughts & actions of our lives.

Principle #13 - Make wrong things right

Where does the principle come from?

- From the start I had thirteen principles - on purpose due to me love & affinity of the number (more on that in an upcoming episode).

- Of my original principles, this is the only one I've ever changed.

- This last principle used to be "Stay vigilant on your principles"

  - An important reminder, but gradually I recognized that defining my principles had worked.

  - Regularly reviewing them, and making them a vital part of my yearly themes, goal setting, and personal check-ins, they became so embedded into my consciousness and decision making.

  - This made having the reminder of vigilance, codified, was kind of a waste.

- But I had to ensure I maintained 13 principles!

- So I replaced it with an element more geared towards my mission in life: ***To improve the world in a manner that inspires others to do the same.***

- Improving the world means turning wrong things right, as best as I can, whenever feasible.

Why is it important?

- It's important to take a stand for things:

  - It can be as small as moving a fallen branch off a sidewalk so nobody trips on it.

  - It can be as large as risking life and limb to save someone's life.

- This principle doesn't imply only large, overt actions:

  - If we all make small corrections and improvements collectively, this has the potential to create large impacts on the world.

- It concerns me that people tend to be too focused on themselves, and the small circle around them.

  - Fewer people will go from pointing out a problem, to actively doing something about it.

  - It's one thing to complain about a problem or situation. But it's far better to at least suggest ideas to rectify it.

  - And if you've got the means and opportunity to do so: Try to do something positive to remedy a situation.

How does living it impact myself & others?

- This is straightforward, since the intention is to leave the world better than I found it.

- I try to make an impact by being present and available to others.

- I love when people come to me for help: Easing other's path through life is an honor.

- I take it as a privilege to bring my energy, resources, skills and connections to bear for others.

- Yet, I try to maintain awareness not to impose, or over-volunteer. While I'll always make the offer of help, I'll only do so when requested. Lots of times people want to walk their own journey, figure things out for themselves.

What does living the principle look like in action?

- I'm a problem solver at heart. A fixer. These require actions, not just ideas.

- This principle helps to keep me in a mindset of vigilance. Keeping an eye out for opportunities for my actions that can result in positive impact, furthering my mission.

  - This mindset is future-focused: How will this situation, pattern, whatever, if allowed to continue, negatively impact others?

- Turning this vigilant mindset into actions takes into account a few factors, including proximity, ability, risk, and judgement:

  - Proximity: Am I close enough to the situation, and those involved, where my actions would be welcomed?

  - Ability: How well can I help achieve a suitable solution? Assessing that I truly have the ability to help.

  - Risk: By helping out, am I putting myself, my family, or anyone else involved at undue risk?

    - These risks can be physical, financial, legal, or social.

  - Judgement: Is this situation wrong just from my perspective, or is it clear to others that it's a problem?

    - It can be tricky to cross a line, regardless of intent, by imposing my own value judgements on others.

💬 Episode 45 Quote:

I'm going to close out this admittedly long Principles Series with this wonderful quote from Daryl Davis:

> *"People all want the same 5 things in their lives: To be loved, respected, heard, treated fairly, and the same thing for their family as we want for ours"*