



# Selfishness Hurts Us All

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With recent elections now behind us, I'm anxious to look forward. I got tired of the barrage of advertisements and editorials, especially the attack ads. One commercial that was particularly annoying was the upset parent who didn't get the help she expected from the government. I believe that person's attitude represents the core of what is wrong with politics, and the source of most issues for that matter.

The issue is selfishness. Countries, companies, and communities become great because people think about and do what is best for the whole, not just what is best for themselves. It is when people only think about themselves that the whole suffers .... which ironically ends up hurting the individual.

You hear politicians, and their constituents, demanding what they want, with no concern for how it impacts other counties, districts, states, or the whole country. They lament over all they don't have, and how bad it will be if they are not elected, or if an amendment isn't approved. It is gimme, gimme. It is "I want ....", "I need ....", and "I deserve ...." It is all about "me".

Our country, like our workplaces, won't stay great, or become great, as long as we are only concerned about ourselves. It is going to take citizens, employees, and leaders alike to push aside selfish desires and consider what is good for the whole.

There are two types of people – givers and takers. Takers are focused on what they need and what they can get. If they think about giving, it is what others should give, not what they should give themselves. Givers are focused on what they can give and how they can help others. What we desperately need are more givers. Here is how to spot a giver from a taker:

<b>Impact on:</b>	<b>Takers:</b>	<b>Givers:</b>
1. Mentality	Think "me" first	Think "you" first
2. Energy	Deplete you	Excite you
3. Motivation	Defeat you	Encourage you
4. Problems	Complain, whine	Offer solutions
5. Resources	Subtract and divide	Multiply and add
6. Behavior	Talk	Listen, take action
7. Ownership	Make excuses, blame	Look in the mirror
8. Goodwill	Take	Give

The wisest man of all times, Solomon - King of Israel in the tenth century BC, said in Proverbs 11:[24], "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. [25] A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

If you want prosperity, become a giver instead of a taker. Create a climate of giving. Look out for the best interests of others. Lead by example. Your investment will come back to benefit you with added interest.

Consider what would happen if we all put the good of the whole ahead of our own selfish desires. Think how much wasted time and effort would go away. Lobbying, politicking, and most legal disputes would all but disappear. Products and services would improve. Customer service would improve. Paradoxically, we would all end up getting what we want and more.

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