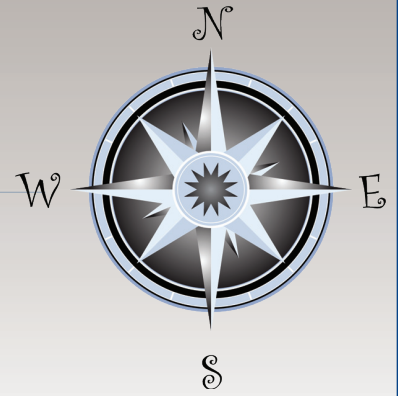


The Vision Principle of PARAMETERS



A king rejoices in servants who know what they are doing; he is angry with those who cause trouble.

PRINCIPLE OF THE WEEK

Setting parameters is a necessary part of life. When you are on a multi-lane highway, there are lines that show you where you should be driving. This makes for a quicker journey, eliminates uncertainty, and provides safety for all drivers. If people are to feel safe and know where they are expected to be, they must have boundaries. If the boundaries are not clearly marked, they may be crossed without the offender even knowing they have stepped over the line.

This Proverb says, “A king rejoices in his servants who know what they are doing.” This means that the king had a purpose and parameters for his people so that they knew what he expected. People can only please an authority figure or company if they know what is expected of them. There must be a concrete set of goals with defined parameters. If a company does not give the employees specific company policies with clear job descriptions and goals, their performance cannot be measured. If both parties understand the purpose of the goal and the parameters, work turns into a game. It will be “us” rather than “them.” It will be a company-employee team. Knowing our boundaries gives us a clear vision of what to do and the freedom to do it.

If we expect people to treat us fairly, we must first be fair ourselves. To do this, we must have proper boundaries established for those around us. Our children will enjoy obeying us only if they know and understand our rules and our purpose. We cannot discipline anyone based on what we think they should have known. We will find that most people will respect leaders if goals and purposes are communicated clearly. They may not always agree with everything but they will have respect. There are, however, a few rebels who oppose everything and everyone.

They have no idea what is fair. Fortunately, they are a small percentage of our society but they do have to be dealt with consistently.

Benefits

You will reap many benefits from setting and staying within parameters:

- Parameters make people feel safe because they know what is expected of them and how to meet that expectation.
- Parameters enable people to achieve important things because they know what the goals are.
- Parameters allow people to grow. When boundaries are set, it makes people conscious of their behavior. This enables growth by revealing what things are holding them back.
- Parameters help you to get more of what you want and less of what you don't want. If people know what is expected of them, you are more likely to get it.
- When parameters are set and consistently enforced, people will respect you because they know you are fair.

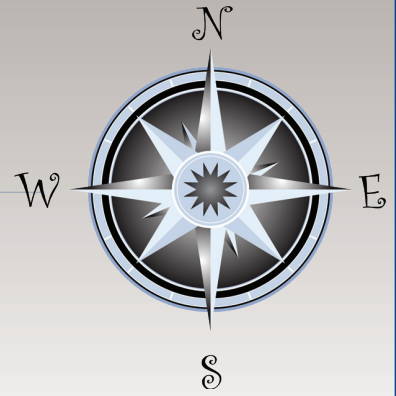
Characteristics

If you are someone who respects parameters, you will have these traits:

1. You will define goals and boundaries for those you manage.
2. You will carefully review your expectations to make sure they are not too high or unrealistic. You will avoid setting others up to fail.

Action Plan for

PARAMETERS



3. You will leave enough room in the parameters to allow some freedom and approach the idea of setting parameters in a positive manner.
4. You will be consistent in maintaining what the goals and boundaries are and discipline if the goals are not met or the boundaries are crossed.
5. You will respect the parameters others have set for you and do your best to meet their expectations.

Remember... Thoughts become actions. Actions become habits. Habits become our destiny.

Reflect and respond

1. Would those around you say that you respect parameters or would they consider you a “rebel?”
2. Do you have a hard time setting boundaries for others or consistently enforcing them? If so, why?
3. What do you think is the most important aspect of setting and respecting parameters?
4. Which of the “Steps to Follow” will you commit to this week?

Steps to Follow

If you are in authority and setting parameters:

- Define clear goals and boundaries for those you are in authority over. Carefully review them to make sure they are realistic and allow a reasonable amount of freedom.
- Be aware of what is happening daily and be willing to act consistently. You must have a commitment to uphold what is right and true.
- Approach the idea of setting parameters with a positive attitude. Remember that you are giving people a framework so that they can know what is expected of them and succeed.

If someone is in authority over you:

- Ask for defined goals and boundaries if they haven’t been provided for you.
- Do your best to meet expectations and respect others.
- Be honest and ask for assistance if you are having trouble understanding or meeting expectations.

Evaluate yourself from 1 to 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
What specific action can you put into practice to test the benefits of this principle?										
Check list for the daily reading of this principle	M	T	W	T	F	S	S			

Completed

Not completed