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## *Do it Anyway* *The Paradoxical Commandments*

This poem/prayer was found on the walls of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind,  
people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful,  
you will win some false friends and some true enemies.  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and truthful,  
people may deceive you.  
Be honest and truthful anyway.

What you spend years building,  
someone could destroy overnight.  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,  
they may be jealous.  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,  
people will often forget tomorrow.  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,  
and it may never be enough.  
Give your best anyway.

You see,  
in the final analysis, it is between you and God;  
it was never between you and them anyway.

This poem was originally written by Kent M. Keith in 1968 as a booklet for student leaders—he had called it *The Paradoxical Commandments- guidelines for finding meaning in the face of adversity*. At the time Kent was just 19 years old, and he had no way of knowing that they'd spread far around the world to over 100 countries. Kent shared, "I went to college during the "student revolution" of the late 1960s. There was conflict and confrontation on many college and high school campuses, but there was also idealism and hope that positive change could be achieved. I worked mostly with high school student leaders during that time traveling the country, giving more than a hundred speeches in eight different states.

*What I found disturbing was that so many young people went out to change the world but came back too soon. They gave up because change did not occur quickly, or people did not appreciate what they were trying to do. I*

*urged them to love people, because change takes time, and love is one of the only motivations strong enough to keep you with the people and the process until change is achieved. I also told them that if they do what they believe is right, and good, and true, their actions will be meaningful, and that meaning can sustain them as they continue their work.”*

Almost 30 years later, in 1993, Kent learned that Mother Teresa had put a copy of the Paradoxical Commandments up on her wall at her children’s home in Calcutta and he was inspired to continue sharing his message.

At Westview it has not been easy to seek to care for the least in our community by endeavoring to build Recurso de Fuerza homes for the unhoused at our church. Many neighbors have been angry with us about it and two city council members have made it very difficult. Though it will not only compassionately care for those in dire need, it will indeed get people off the streets and make our streets safer. We have listened and sought to care for our neighbors amidst their anxiety. Jesus declared in Matthew 16:33, 28:20 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world...*I am with you always.*”

Many of you are doing good and spreading love in this world and at times you get pushback, keep loving anyway!

I appreciate you & God bless you,  
Pastor Dan

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