

Love and Leadership - Creating Balance

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"Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

When introduced in the workplace, Love is a word sure to raise a few eyebrows. No matter your relationship to the word or the energy created in simply hearing the word we all have a fundamental desire to love and be loved. There are countless amazing books written on the subject and I'm not talking about fairy tales. The quote above says it beautifully, however, the challenge comes in the implementation.

Organizations in today's economy face bigger and bigger challenges. We find ourselves making business decisions through the stifling mask of fear and scarcity. Driven by the ever increasing demand to produce more with less fear runs rampant and rough shod over our most talented workers stifling creativity and thwarting initiative.

But what if there was another way to proceed? Imagine what it would be like if you were to create a work environment as suggested by the quote? What

would the impact be on others if your leadership and actions were fueled by Power and Love?

You may be pessimistic and/or confronted by the notion of bringing Love to your own leadership despite all of the data to support the benefits and extraordinary results available to your organization. Including but not limited to:

- Increased productivity;
- Higher profitability;
- Reduced absenteeism;
- Improved quality of product or service;
- Increased employee retention;

And

- Improved safety

Getting there will require that you give up your resistance and get creative. It will also require you to get related to your work force. Listen to your employees. What are they trying to tell you? You may have a notion of how they receive love but consider that is your interpretation. Be willing to risk, to be bold and to be vulnerable. Discover them. Ask them, engage them.

"The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but

not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly.

- Jim Rohn



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