

Enlightened or Unenlightened Leadership: It's about Values (in pairs)

While none of us get up in the morning and say, “*Today, my leadership goal is to cause problems or mess up,*” sometimes we do **just** that. When things go wrong, we do what we believe is “right” to fix it, only to find in a number of occasions we’ve not solved the problem or even made matters worse. If we look at the current economic situation, while there is plenty of blame to go around, I believe one real cause is the lack of ability in our economic and governmental leaders to see the “whole” picture when drafting and implementing new policies.

In a recent televised interview Warren Buffett, Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. and the world’s richest man, talked about a “natural progression” to how good new ideas go wrong. I believe this progression will continue until our leaders step back and can view multiple perspectives simultaneously.

In my just released book, ***Power Surge: A Conduit for Enlightened Leadership***, senior leaders at an electric utility mishandle their own crisis because they can’t recognize a bigger picture when managing on-going, complex problems. What often happens is this. Leaders’ motivational values drive decisions that spawn a great idea initially, only to have that same idea result in a disaster down the road. This paradox makes leaders and organizations, even countries, vulnerable and can compromise long-term results.

In the case of US sub-prime mortgages, the motivational value seems to have been “access to home ownership.” While this is a good and noble cause, it created the potential for untold foreclosures and now a trillion dollar bailout.

So what was missing? The interdependent value of “ability to pay,” a responsibility given to the mortgage lenders themselves, seems to have been blatantly ignored; hence, a catalyst for a worldwide financial crisis. Without the recognition of and emphasis on the interdependent value, success was doomed without its counter-balance. You can’t have everyone having access to home ownership without the ability to pay the monthly mortgage. While this seems simple in retrospect...it is complex in real-time.

Some of us are fortunate enough to be endowed with this exceptional ability to see and balance seemingly different, yet complementary motivational values simultaneously; most of us are more apt to fall prey to our own singular motivational instincts.

For years, I’d been looking for a magic bullet to enable leaders across our country to expand their capabilities to see and act with the whole picture in mind. I think I’ve finally found one.

Polarity Management® provides a straightforward set of principles and a mapping method to document your own wisdom while accessing a new and deeper awareness of what it takes for you to achieve and sustain leadership greatness and manage chronic challenges.

Let’s balance all new great ideas so that we can sustain them!

For more information, visit: www.mypowersurge.com