

Do Better

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When you know better, you do better — or so the saying goes. Or is it more accurately stated:
When you know better, you try better?

I remember a client I had a few years ago. She faced, for at least the second time, the removal of her children from her home. As my second time representing her, we faced the permanent termination of her parental rights. I reviewed the facts of her case and considered her history. One theme in her actions became quite clear. Her consistent errors revolved around her relationship choices. Time after time, she chose the wrong mate, which led to problems with substance abuse, which led to domestic violence, ultimately resulting in the entrance and continuous presence of Children and Family Services. She lived in a perpetual and vicious cycle.

I am sure that upon further exploration I would have discovered that my client had a less than stellar childhood. I am confident that although she was not happy with the circumstances of her life, she really did not know how to do any better. The cycle of abuse will continue to fester unless and until someone learns and implements *The Principles of Doing Better*.

I kept a copy of an inspirational article in my desk to give to clients caught in a whirlwind of self-destruction. I handed it to my client and talked to her about her life choices.

“Have you noticed a pattern in your life that has led to your inability to properly care for your children?” We both agreed that her over-preoccupation with relationships and poor decisions when it came to selecting a mate were the underlying theme in her present problems. “You have tried the man route, and frankly you have not been very successful at it. It is time you try something else.”

She received my advice quite well, as she always did, and I prayed that she would apply our conversation.

As I wrote this essay, I thought of all the areas in my life to which my advice to my client applied to me as well. *Try something else*. According to another often heard saying “If you want to attain something you never had, you have to do something you never did.” So, if you want to gain wealth, and your nine-to-five is not making you wealthy, then you have to do something you have never done. If you want to have a closer relationship with God and you know you have not obeyed what He has told you to do, you better do something you have never done. If you want to move past mediocrity and progress to a higher plane, you better do better.

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For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

~ I Corinthians 13:12

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