

## ***One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!***

### **#36 “*Somebody has to be second!*”**

Since we couldn’t advertise at the time I began practicing law in 1951, it was a challenge to get business. When a client asked me to go learn about labor law, it was a relatively new area and I began to make a name for myself. I decided that being *the best* in something paid off, and it became a part of my belief system.

When I spoke of this to our children, one our sons responded rather incredulously, “But Dad! ***Somebody has to be second!***” Frankly, I had come to the place where that thought had not occurred to me. I knew being *the best* in one area of law was working for me, and I was unconsciously (and perhaps even consciously) giving it as an unwritten law for our family.

A few months ago one of our children startled me with a comment that made even clearer the unfair yoke I had placed on them: “You gave us a family bent that shamed us. You told us we had to be the best of something, and if we weren’t we felt ashamed!”

What a mistake! Being successful isn’t a matter of comparison. That only builds pride if we do well and shame if we do not. The answer is simply to be the best we can be. It has nothing to do with how we compare with others.

The real test of success is not to be *the best* of anything—but rather, to be whatever God designed us to be. That may be first and it may be last. In fact, in His Kingdom, He tells us, “*...many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.*”

I am glad our family learned the truth before it was too late.

*From Grandpa With Love*

#### **A Note From the Writer**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin