

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

61 “*What is your definition of success?*”

One evening an older woman gave me two very provocative questions. The first was, “***What is your definition of success?***”

At some point, she said, our definition will become our goal and dramatically affect our life. After much reflection, mine finally became a simple statement: “That I might be used by God to be and do what He had planned for me”. It has nothing to do with my bank account, organizations, degrees, or offices. Rather, “Am I about the work God had planned for me?” If so, I think I’m successful; if not I need to change.

We were all created for a purpose, but we sometimes fall into a trap that becomes a substitute for the real thing.

One trap is to seek success in the eyes of the world. A second is our drive for success in one area may contribute to our failure in another. The divorce courts are grim recorders of many who become so intense trying to succeed in their careers that their marriages fail. A third very subtle trap is called altruistic egoism: I do good work for you, but my underlying goal is to reward me with money, reputation or other personal benefits.

I have concluded real success is to be involved in building God’s Kingdom for God’s glory without regard to our personal benefit. We do our work out of gratitude, because He has already saved us, and we want to bless Him with our lives. When we do, we get to share in *His* work.

That’s *real* success!

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. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin