



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Whew. It's finally over. Can you imagine serving in a highly visible professional role of leadership where, for most of your tenure, the company is conducting a nationwide talent search for your imminent replacement? We're just about there; I'm expecting for Campaign 2012 to fire-up just after the Christmas Season comes and goes. The networks made their financial pro formas this year - in a declining market - because of presidential campaign coffers that raised record piles of cash to buy political ads. Our new CEO will be leading against the backdrop of the next hopefuls vying for national visibility. No breaks...

Let 'em do their thing. National politics knows no seasons. While they scrap and punch to get media attention, what are we - the people whose political participation is mostly-over until we go back into a polling booth in the '10 mid-terms - supposed to be doing?

All positions have Job Descriptions. You've got one at work; it describes what the people above you - or, if you sit on top of the Org Chart, the people below you - expect from you while the game clock of business is running. If you work in a structured environment, you may have an annual review, where your supervisor will invest an hour of closed-door time to measure their perception of your



performance against your Job Description. Are you doing what you were supposed to do, in return for that salary and benefit package?

In the Ultimate Relationship - the Organizational Chart where the top box is occupied by Jehovah (*Old Testament business card*), or Jesus (*New Testament business card*) - what are all of the positions - from line-level up to senior management, under the Almighty - supposed to be doing?

Here's God's brief description of His expectations; a good reminder of what we should be doing, now that our Elect-a-President task is behind us: *"He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8). No mystery in the ongoing relationship with El Supremo. He doesn't mince words...

Act Justly: He is looking for our actions to be equitable. God is big on justice;

in fact, that is one of His prominent personal hot-buttons. Justice - as He describes and practices it - involves power. In human affairs, it is often misused; when it is, justice suffers. Acting justly means that fairness prevails in circumstances where power could be wielded at the expense of the powerless.

Love Mercy: He wants our *affections* to be expressed at our own expense. God is big on grace (giving what is not deserved) and mercy (withholding what is deserved). Mercy forgives the guilty; He did that, in Christ. He expects us to do the same... rather than demanding our due.

Walk Humbly... with your God: He wants our *attitude* to be shaped by our view of ourselves compared to Him, not our view of ourselves compared to other people. If I look at peers, I can get a big self-image that makes me arrogant; if I look at Him, I will get a focused self-image that recognizes His vast and vital supremacy... and puts me in proper perspective.

What does the Lord require of you?
Right Actions. Right Affections. Right Attitudes. Until we step back into that voting booth, there's the short list of God's expectation of us. *Ready to get rolling?*

Bob Shank

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