

# EVER WANTED SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE MORE THAN THEY WANTED IT FOR THEMSELVES?

**I**F you are a normal person, the answer is yes. Almost every day we want something for someone more than they want it for themselves. Every parent I know experiences this phenomenon, particularly during a child's teenage years. For example, I would love my son to be a factory motocross rider some day. But the truth is that I want that for him more than he wants it for himself. I have often been guilty of pressing my future on him. Dads show up at the track with a \$100,000 motor home, \$30,000 trailer, and six bikes plus parts—not a bad set-up for an eight-year-old. The problem is that the kid has to be pushed, pulled, and externally motivated at every turn. This is a classic case of wanting something for someone more than they want it for themselves. Every parent must face this temptation with great wisdom.

Obviously, there is often an overlap between what our children want and what we want for them. When they are young, our will ought to be a primary influence in their lives. As they grow, however, and demonstrate responsibility and the ability to articulate a direction for their lives, we should wisely relinquish our dominance.

Adults are a whole different ball game, and they require even more wisdom. Every one of you probably knows at least one person you and your friends have tried to help. We hate to say it, but they have become a project that has consumed many hours and resources, and in the end there is no change. You want to bring about change more

than they do. If I could be reimbursed for the time and money I have spent trying to get people to do what I want them to do, I would be a lot younger and wealthier.

The situation in Iraq is a good example of what happens when you want something for someone more than they want it for themselves. Politicians talk about creating a peaceful democracy in Iraq. Who doesn't want that? At this point, though, it has failed. Why? Some people do not want those things right now. It appears that outsiders want democracy, peace, and stability in that part of the world more than some of its actual inhabitants.

To conclude, let's go over some practical advice about wanting things for others more than they want them for themselves. First, recognize when you are doing it. If you find yourself constantly asking "why aren't you" questions, you probably are. Second, invest in people who actually want help. Those people are out there. While we are spending loads of time and money on a person who does not want it, we are missing the blessing of helping someone who does. Don't be so quick to pull the trigger on your resource gun. Save it for someone who really wants to excel in life. Third, know when to stop wanting something for someone. It's bad enough to be in this situation at all. If your relationships are suffering, stop pushing!