

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

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The most obvious set of concentric circles is a bulls-eye, so vivid, plain, and self-contained; and certainly an easy target for many uses. But here we do not speak of targets, per se; we speak rather of rings or circles of influence (much like those produced when even the smallest pebble is dropped in a quiet pool of water).

We, all, are at the center of such "circles", and at times we are also in any one of the concentric rings, simply part of another system or pattern. This is due to our multi-faceted lives, tasks and activities--what we are about and involved with!

Concentric circles are neat--clean, distinctive and separated! They don't intrude one on the other, and usually are quite distinct and well defined--e.g., the red/black target motif. In the pool of water they begin strong and gradually drift out of existence disappearing into the flat surface of the water. Quick turnover! But quite sharp, sparkly and clean at the start!

Well, that is all well and good, since the pool has no agenda and can remain docile until the next pebble. But, we, at times, encounter circumstances when we must move from one circle to another. We must do things differently or move to new tasks and situations. We humans are not static like the painted target, and not distinctly separated like the pool ripples. Maybe we live in more of a spiral where the circles are interconnected one to another as we offer and accept opportunities to move about--up and back; up and up and up. Or simply re-positioning to a new "circle".

At any rate, one real good example of a human circle is the proverbial "preaching to the choir". Here the meaning is that in lieu of extending the effort and reaching out to others or trying to attract new others, the effort becomes highly complacent and is solely to re-use modified messages in varying terms to the same group of people. Oh, there may be some new information, direction, effort or inspiration but in the main the real need is to be new, better, more informative and uplifting only to the "choir". It is for another "circle" to reach out and move to other places, other "choirs" or "choirs in the making" where the message gets to and is heard by altogether new people and groups--those not previously or currently in the choir!

To refresh any membership with the proverbial "new blood", preaching to the choir will never suffice or succeed! That refreshment should be directed toward bringing new thinking and enthusiasm into the group, and new people with bright, adventurous ideas. Memberships need to view as dynamic creatures with movement both into and out of, as the individual desires. In a sense any organization needs to recreate itself ever so often with newness in appearance, voice, colors, goals, direction and area of impact. To stand still is to simply "allow" reduction in numbers, hesitation in viability, inertia, stagnation and added complacency. Ideally (and really if you care to look) there are always new fields to plow, new areas to explore, new ideas to exchange and extend--and new programs to further inform, AND to attract new members.

Simply extending the effort toward an ancillary or allied group is one good idea to bring new harmony and mutual respect and interface to both entities. It is good, refreshing and rewarding to stretch, grow, reach out, and engage newness in many ways. Finding new directions refresh thinking and engenders new vitality to at least of the members interested in those adventures. It must be seen and kept in mind that the horizon is not a fence, the end, or a stop sign; but rather a new beginning and a new beginning and new beginning.....