

# Paradoxical Commandments

By Kent M. Keith

(This is often attributed to Mother Teresa of Calcutta, as a copy is on her wall, but it was written by Kent when he was 19, and first published by the Harvard Student Agencies in 1968.)

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;  
 Forgive them anyway.  
 If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
 Be kind anyway.  
 If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
 Succeed anyway.  
 If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
 Be honest and frank anyway.  
 What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight;  
 Build anyway.  
 If you find serenity and happiness, others may be jealous;  
 Be happy anyway.  
 The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
 Do good anyway.  
 Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
 Give the world the best you've got anyway.  
 You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God;  
 It was never between you and them anyway.

**Y**ou say you can't change the world?—It's too late, too bad, too big, and just too difficult? Well, why don't you just try changing your part of the world?

Why don't you start with your *own* heart, your own mind, your own spirit, your own life? If you even change *your* life, you've changed the entire sphere in which you live. The place and the very atmosphere around you will be changed if you change yourself by the power of God's love!  
 —David Brandt Berg

## I Am Only One

By Zig Ziglar

### On Focus

No steam or gas drives anything until it is confined. No Niagara is ever turned into light and power until it is funneled. No life ever grows great until it is focused, dedicated, disciplined.

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

I love this little poem from an unknown author:

*God said to build a better world,  
 and I said, "How?  
 The world is such a cruel  
 and heartless place,  
 and I am so small and useless,  
 there is nothing I can do."  
 But God, in all His wisdom said,  
 "Just build a better you."*

We can start by heeding the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who identified the seven sins in the world as wealth without work, pleasure before conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

Those words give us cause for concern, but there *is* something we can do, even though we feel, "I am only one." The answer lies in the information above. You start by building a better you. If all of us did that, we would have a better world.