

Ed. Note: The Paradoxical Commandments were written by Kent Keith in 1968 in a booklet for student leaders. Since then they have circled the world, used by business leaders, military commanders, government officials, religious leaders and university presidents. Mother Teresa displayed them on her wall. They were recited at Whitney Houston's funeral. Dr. Keith was CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership from 2007-2012.

The Paradoxical Commandments

By Dr. Kent M. Keith

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down
by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have anyway.