Let It Be

Recently I was on one of my regular walks. Usually that is a good time to think about things that are on my to-do list. Often that means that I miss some of the scenery around me. I suddenly noticed a yard flag that said “Let it Bee” that I had never seen before. It immediately hit me how important that statement was to the tool of “Be Inclusive”.

Most of my description of this tool so far has been to allow ourselves to be open to listening to other points of view. This was done by remaining silent and trying very hard to hear clearly to understanding another’s opinion. There are a number of advantages. We have broaden our perspective on many things and thus provide us with more options. We have been an example to the speaker. We have listened to them. Now they may be willing to listen to us. So many more avenues for common ground have been created.

Still for all of us we have some very strong beliefs on some issues that differ drastically with others that we know and associate. To me “Let It Be” means that we need to find a way to be at peace on a number of different levels. First we need to acknowledge that there is another person who sees the issue in another way and feels as strongly about their view as we do. Next to be at peace we need to allow ourselves to be comfortable with that understanding. In so doing we further recognize that on this issue we will for now continue to disagree. Yet we also know that there are many more issues, interests, and beliefs that we do have in common, we really do want to continue our association and remain civil. By reframing from bringing up the subject, we let it be. There is a peace between us as we both understand that we have different view on this issue, each has an understanding of the other’s view, and both are retaining their viewpoint. Both continue to enjoy the relationship.

Now let’s consider what may result from peace. Individuals continue to enjoy their common likes. Often new one are found with further pleasure. Over time each of you have had opportunities to explore the “let it be” issue with others who share your views, but also with some who either have another view or not such a strong view. There very well could be a time where both of you can recognize some common thoughts about the issue.

If we do not let it be, here are some probable consequences. You both try to persuade the other of one’s wrong thinking and suddenly one forgets civility by verbally attacking the other. This same behavior is then returned. It gets out of control and next one is hitting the other. One or both can be hurt. Some friendships end, some family members never speak again, someone is disinherited. One can try to alienate the person from other friends that they have in common. People have been fired. Rather than living in peace, one lives with anger, hurt, guilt, loneliness due to distancing from others who do not feel comfortable with what happened, and loss. In those states of mind, it is hard to be civil with anyone.

So as John Lennon sings “Let It BE, Let It Be, Let It Be, Let It Be” and that peace will carry us to be civil.

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