

Kiwanis

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Be the person everyone wants to set next to at your Kiwanis meeting

Here is some real good advice sent in by Clarence Penny of the O'Fallon (Mo.) Kiwanis Club.

What is the number one tip offered to Monopoly players in the book *The Monopoly Companion: The Player's Guide*? Surprisingly, it is not to invest your money in Boardwalk and Park Place. Nor is it staying in jail when everyone else has hotels. Incredibly the number one tip is: be the kind of player everyone else wants to set next to. The more you think about this tip, the more you realize its wisdom. Monopoly is only a game and you prefer to set next to the person who plays for fun and doesn't get too serious or upset while playing. Further, Monopoly requires cooperation, so the last person you want to set next to is a brow-beater, insulter, or know-it-all.

Permit me to offer you some advice for participating in your Kiwanis Club. Be the person everyone wants to set next to at the meeting. Cultivate a gracious spirit and people will want to be around you. A gracious person is:

- Always thinking of others,
- Slow to take credit and quick to lavish praise,
- Points out the good that he/she sees, and
- Knows that he is not indispensable.

On the other hand, people who cling to

resentment; people who do not know how to handle disappointment with grace; people long on holding grudges and short on forgiveness; people who choke on the words "I'm sorry" are not the people we prefer to spend a great deal of time around.

There are two dominant qualities found in people who you want to set next to at our meetings. First, they are people who lose gracefully. Losing provides us with an invaluable window into our character. How do you respond when you are part of a group which makes a decision that you oppose? How do you handle it when things don't always go your way? To live is to lose, but to lose badly can be lethal! Second, the person everyone wants to set next to forgives gracefully. Imagine being assigned to carry a large rock around all the time. It's heavy and burdensome, but you choose never to put it down. That is what it is like when you carry a grudge.

Look around at the people setting at our next meeting. What person would you like to set next to? Does that person (1) lose with grace; and (2) forgive others gracefully? Can the same be said of you? Others will flock to set next to you when they see these qualities in you. Let's make this a great year for our club and that we see lots of changes in our attitudes. ---Clarence Penny