

Introduction

My motive behind writing this book *could* have been to convince others to accept me for who I am. It is true that I sympathize with people who have been dumped, fired, disowned, ignored, kicked-out, silenced, threatened, divorced, shunned, expelled, locked-up, excommunicated, segregated, exiled, or otherwise oppressed because someone wanted them to be someone whom they were not. These are not acts of justice which build character – they are acts of selfishness which destroy hope. Being repeatedly oppressed makes me personally afraid to be myself in public, so of course I selfishly desire a less-selfish world.

However, my research into this kind of discrimination was actually inspired by the responsibility of being a parent. Part of what society delegated to me as a parent, I thought, was a responsibility to shape my children's morals. Education is important to protect our children from repeating mistakes already made, but sloppy education could harm, so I felt that my responsibility included a duty first to educate myself. As you will see in this book, I've learned that society has established quite a bit about moral diversity and its value, yet moral discrimination runs rampant because this knowledge was not previously organized in ways that support the practical situations of parents and other kinds of leaders.

The need to balance a responsibility for shaping others against a responsibility not to oppress them has been shared by parents, teachers, coaches, supervisors, psychologists, and clergy for many many years. CEOs, nation-builders, celebrities, and even technologists share in this responsibility because of the powers they wield and the goals they pursue. As in an ecosystem, diversity is valuable; imbalance can undermine success. Thus, this book is for

anyone who loves someone, or is responsible for someone, or who wants a family, team, church, business, nation, or other society to be the best it can be.

This book is dedicated to my children because they inspired and guided its development, because I want to let them be themselves, because I want them to remain free even outside my home, and because I want them to inherit a world capable of accomplishing everything they can dream.