

“Accepting Blame”

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Accepting blame can be the smartest thing you ever did...even when you are not the one at fault.

Consider that idea for a few seconds. Hmm...this guy sounds a little bit crazy you may be thinking, correct? Well, let me explain.

When you are at fault

Accepting blame for your mistake and expressing your sorrow for the harm it caused is absolutely necessary in order to get on with whatever you need to do thereafter. When you admit your mistake, you clear it from your mind thus enabling you to truly concentrate upon your next tasks. By fighting the situation, blaming others or events allegedly beyond your control, you continue to burden yourself (and others) with totally unnecessary baggage and reduce your ongoing effectiveness because the falsehood must be fed and nurtured, remembered, defended, repeated to others, etc. It's much better to get rid of the darn thing altogether.

When you are not at fault but choose to accept the blame anyway

Accepting the blame for “The Mistake” can sometimes be a good strategy even when you are not at fault. Now, we are not talking about a criminal matter where doing time in prison is the consequence accompanying the acceptance of blame. What we're talking about is the situation where you are the leader of a team. One team member makes the mistake but the team leader chooses to accept the criticism (even if it's a serious pounding) thus protecting the follower from the blame. Why in the world would the team leader choose this course of action?

1. The leader may believe the follower to be a very high potential individual with a terrific future in the larger organization whose career would suffer irreparable damage if he takes the hit at this time.
2. The leader may be an “old war horse” with a long list of accomplishments to his credit that can easily absorb the flack associated with taking the blame for this situation.
3. The leader may desire to have the follower deeply in his debt so that the follower may be relied upon to “keep the leader informed” of certain matters for many years after he has been promoted up the corporate ladder several times.
4. The leader may want to “give a good example to others” among his followers as to how a leader “protects his people”.

Therefore, **accepting blame** can be the smartest thing you ever did...even when you are not the one at fault.