

Stay true to yourself and you will go far

Are you your own person? Do you love yourself? If you are not afraid to answer these questions then you are in a position to sharpen your own self-awareness. Of course, there is more to it than simply reading the following text. But that could be a good place to start.

Quality of life and success

It is not enough for you to produce evidence of your success. You also want to feel good through and through. You want to further improve both success and quality of life.

What is it exactly, this quality of life? I tend to do what I like doing. I do what I do in a way that I enjoy. I consider my achievements to have a certain value. Quality of life arises out of the appreciation of one's own achievements and impact. If you think that definition seems too simple please send your more in-depth version to rychiger@rychiger.info. Thank you.

How do we define success? Success is that which is successful. Success is also a matter of impact. And success is not just something I measure but is also measured by the people I consider most important. Success, on the bottom line, is what I see reflected in my client's face. And in his attitude. Is he pleased with my performance? Is it having the desired effect? Is he willing to pay the price for it? If I can answer all these questions with a clear "yes" and if that is repeated often enough then my position and my reputation and that of my company are on track. I can then mark that down as true success in all conscience!

Look to other people

If things go wrong then the first thing I have to do is exonerate myself and apportion blame where necessary. You are sure to have noticed how easy it is to justify the fact that turnover and profit do not always tally. Market conditions, the economy, globalisation, unfair competition – it's easy to find excuses. With a little imagination I can always find something to blame: the unpredictable client, the fickle owner or the narrow-minded boss. With every justification and every ounce of blame I let myself off the hook. The bad news is that this is no acquittal. It is nothing more than a short-term solution that falls short. What's more, I find my development blocked. When you read between the lines of these excuses and accusations you find "I can't help it. I can't do anything about it". It's obvious that this will have a negative effect on my development. Take a good look at yourself: how often do you get caught up in a spiral of excuses and accusations and live on comfortably, but without your desired quality of life?

Look to yourself

If I want to advance, to develop both success and quality of life, then the key question is: what can I do to ensure positive development? It's up to me. That is the attitude that gets you further. But it can be a highly uncomfortable attitude. I have to think for myself. I have to develop my own ideas. I have to make my own decisions. I have to take action myself. If I spend a whole year worrying about the fact that my employee just isn't living up to my expectations then one thing is for sure: it's not his fault that I'm worrying about it!

Only by changing can you stay true to yourself.

These are the words of the German singer and poet Wolf Biermann. And he was right. The full statement reads as follows: Stay true to yourself and you will go far. Only by changing can you stay true to yourself. There used to be an even simpler way of expressing this: take responsibility.