

The power of one

If I remember my 3rd grade math lessons correctly, some 45 years later, 1 times 1 is 1, 1 times 2 is 2, 1 times 3 is 3, 1 times 4 is 4, and so on.

When we look at something from that point of view, 1 times anything doesn't add anything to the equation. One times any number is that number.

But when we take a look at the power of one person, the number 1 takes on a magic of its own.

I'm all for teams, and group activities are nice; big groups can accomplish much more than small groups, and large teams can have more power than just a couple of people.

But when it comes to "the one," it's a very important number.

"The One," can be, after all, a visionary, a thinker, a leader -- one person can do a great deal, just by raising his or her voice, and leading toward a superior goal.

It's easy to discount the power of one -- but in any company, there is usually one person with a vision; In any nation, one person can turn the tide of a nation; in any family, one person can have a great effect on the lives of other family members.

And that great effect that can be wielded by one person can be for good or for evil.

One father, cheating on his wife, can turn a family into a group who will never trust anyone again.

One mother, sacrificing for her family, can endear her name for generations to come.

One child, rising up against adversity, can change the course of a family -- and often do.

One parent, going back to school, can move a family from poverty to wealth.

One loving parent can make a child feel secure. One leader can put a company on a path to greatness. One self-serving CEO can condemn a firm to bankruptcy. One designer can create an automobile design that will stand the test of time. One salesman can sell a policy that will protect a young mother from financial ruin when her husband dies.

One child can soften the heart of a embittered man. One leader can save a nation from war and devastation. One researcher can find a way that a small plant can cure hunger and disease.

One person can make a difference -- as long as we realize that the power of one person

can be infinite.

Don't believe me? Churchill was one. Lincoln was one. George Washington Carver was one. Jonas Salk was one. Pasteur was one. Michaelangelo was one. Reagan, Roosevelt, Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Adams -- all were one.

They were one -- and yet they influenced many.

Take those people out of the equation, and history changes.

But they were all just one.

Look in the mirror.

You're just one.

Which one are you?

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