

# CHRIS'LL DEAL WITH IT

episode notes




## EP 43 - Principle #11 - Create beneficial things with passion

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This is part 11 of our summer PRINCIPLES series. It can be listened to by itself, but for greater context refer back to the intro Episode #32.

Note that the principles in this series are what work for me. They allow me to thrive and live my values as best as I can. I'm not advocating the adoption of my specific set of principles. Rather I'm attempting to showcase the power of principles by providing more context on how they can be defined, codified, and embedded into the thoughts & actions of our lives.

### Principle #11 - Create beneficial things with passion

Where does the principle come from?

- Whether it's writing, drawing, building, designing games, developing processes, podcasting, or whatever; Creating is one of the core threads weaved within my life.
- This principle codifies this inherent element of my personality
  - But it does so in a way that reminds me: What I create should be of benefit to the world
  - And that it should be done with all the energy and passion I can muster.
  - Producing things for the sake of producing them doesn't cut it.
    - Or in other words: Quality over quantity.
  - It's important that what I create be as true to myself as possible: My personality, experience, perspective, hopes, fears, etc...
- The word 'beneficial' is vague on purpose.
  - We should be mindful of the potential benefits of our work during its creation.
  - But often, a work's actual impact differs from this vision or intent. The scope or manner in which the impact happens is inherently unpredictable.
  - A work's interaction with the larger consciousness of the universe (the audience) is mostly out of the creator's control.

## Why is this principle important?

- Creating things is an exciting and bold act.
  - The act of creation makes us vulnerable: It's our yearning to put a mark on the world, however ephemeral
  - To create is to add something to the world - providing tangible output for all the inputs we take as requirements for living.
  - Sharing our work can create a sense of fear - but if our work is to benefit some, and comes from a passionate heart, then we shouldn't let any fear stop us.
- There should always be substance behind creation.
  - That substance may not always be fully recognized by those who interact with our work, but we should avoid frivolity all the same.

- Every act of creation is a sharing of ourselves, an extension of our consciousness made manifest. Let it be as meaningful & glorious as possible!

## How does living it impact myself & others?

- We shouldn't worry about the reception of our work.
  - If a creation is made honestly and with the right intent, that in itself is success.
  - That being said, it's certainly nice to see our work interact positively with the world.
    - But the paths others take to our work, and the manners in which they interact with it? As I said before, that's mostly out of our control.
    - Never let this reality discourage you: We should create because our souls demand it, not because its demanded by our perceived audience.
- We should be aware to not create at the cost of subjugating or belittling others.
  - Be wary of building tools that others may use to hurt others.
  - Consider this from the start of design - being sure to consider, as best as you're able, the potential impacts beyond your intent!
  - An example here would be hiring sensitivity readers to read a late-stage draft to ensure you're not inadvertently marginalizing a group.
- It's important to recognize what we've created in the past.
  - Past work may look amateur or unfit through the lens of the current you.
    - Never shy away from it!
  - As we gain experience, our ideas and principles change, we grow.
  - For better or worse, that past work was a stepping stone to where you are now. It should be respected for the momentum, clarity, or skill development it provided.
- And that's just your relationship to the work.
  - The audience exposed to it have their own relationships to it - regardless of when or why you originally created it.

- Have you ever watched an old movie or read an old book and have it resonate with you, who comes to it from a different set of experiences, perspective, and time?
- A great example here would be Marcus Aurelius' Meditations. A book written by a Roman Emperor over two thousand years ago. A book written with the intent of giving advice to his son. This ends up being one of (if not THE) defining texts of Stoic philosophy, referenced & quoted ad nauseum in our modern society - including this podcast!

## What does living the principle look like in action?

- For me, the creative act is a struggle at times. Like trying to build sandcastles in high tide.
  - Sand castles shouldn't stand forever.
  - Washed over, they offer up a canvas for whatever (or whomever) comes next.
  - But the memories of our work (whether our own or our audiences') can have a lasting impact far after the sandcastle's vanished.
  - And what makes a sand castle different than a life?
- The forces of creation & destruction live inside each of us, creating concepts, and patterns of thought.
  - Do we allow the knowing that future tides are coming prevent us from trying now?
  - Do we revel in the power of waves to level the sands through time?
  - What empowers us, drives us, to pick up a pail and shovel and build in the first place?
  - Or kick the foot that accelerates a kingdom's fall so something better or different can be built in its place?
- We can approach creation with the mentality of an editor: Reviewing, refining, balancing the forces within ourselves and what we perceive of the world around us.
  - But there comes a point where you can polish a grain of sand too far - at that point it can no longer contribute to future sand castles.

- The editor within ourselves helps to bring about a work's best qualities, so that they might live on in hearts and minds. Serve our noblest desires
- Which sand castles deserve to have moats built around them so they last longer and allow more to bear witness to our creation before it fades away to time?
- In conclusion: What this principle looks like in action is simple - Creating beneficial things with passion whenever possible.

### **Episode 43 Quote:**

Today's quote is courtesy of the Wu-Tang Clan:

*We live forever through the work of our art / Which inspires the generations from the spirit we spark.*