

Do we stand to be corrected?

Dear Penfabricans,

Correct or not to correct? That is the question. Nobody wishes to admit mistakes. Correcting others in public humiliates the persons concerned. It is neither encouraging nor polite. How then do we correct a mistake or inform the person concerned of his mistake? Shall we just let the sleeping dogs lie? Pretend that nothing untoward happened? Most of us would itch to tell others of their mistakes. Pointing out mistakes of others and correcting them are such gleeful pastime for some!

Let us first look at the circumstances whenever a mistake occurs. Do we have to correct the mistake and steal the thunder from that person? Most times, it may be advisable just to let the occasion pass without us behaving like the clever guy or smart aleck. However, when our reputation is at stake, we have to speak up. How do we go about doing it? If we really need to correct such mistake or misrepresentation, let us ask the opposite party if he is game for some honest feedback. If he is agreeable, let us do it in the most gentle, kind and bipartisan manner so that he would feel comfortable to change his stance or to make some amendments to his presentation. We may also do it after the event so that we will not embarrass him. However, it is essential to keep the feedback issue specific and precise to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary arguments.

Finally, let us not forget that to err is human. Therefore, when it is our turn for our mistakes to be pointed out, we need to learn to accept such inevitable rebuke. Accepting rebuttal is showing humility as well. Sometimes, when we face rebuttal from others, we shy away from speaking up or doing our jobs, thereby shunning our responsibilities. Feeling afraid is not a good enough reason not to step up to our positions. It is time to show our courage to forge forward to take responsibility and be counted. By this, we will grow up and step into the shoes of leadership. When we do it often enough, others will look upon us as the person to emulate. They would like to associate with the leaders and winners, and in turn, aspire to be one as well.

Dear Penfabricans, let us learn to be able to correct the mistakes of others by inspiring others to do better. Let us make sure that they do not feel small or ridiculed with the disclosure of their mistakes. On the other hand, when we make mistakes, let us be humble enough to admit our mistakes and take appropriate actions to make corrections. After all, to err is human, to forgive divine. In the mean time, do look around us in our offices and factories to realize the mistakes that our associates and we ourselves are making. Make an all out effort to correct these mistakes to make us more effective and efficient.

Have a wonderful weekend correcting others and stand to be corrected ourselves.

Thank you.

With kind regards,
HSTeh.