



MONDAYS

with Mike

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Finding meaning in chaos

With so many difficult situations that are present in our world today – health care, the economy, our government’s leadership selections, the middle east, and even natural weather disasters – it is difficult to make sense of all of this. It can overwhelm us. How can we use good judgment in order to find meaning and, ultimately, exercise that good judgment in our reactions?

The Harwood Group, in its publication, Meaningful Chaos, offers the following framework to help us:

- We must create a “whole story.” A sense of coherence about how different pieces of information fit together.
- We must provide the “why’s” and the “how’s” behind the larger concern. For instance, why do certain things exist, or how did something happen?
- We must understand all sides of the issue. Things such as points of view, different ideas for action, and the trade-offs involved in pursuing courses of action.
- We must ask those around us questions that will help them become active learners to help create their most informed responses.
- We must recognize that more information is not always better. Rather, having the most accurate information from the most reputable sources is the winning equation.

As we encounter the emotional and oftentimes inflamed issues that surround us, the ability to have a rational framework will help us be more equipped to manage them. As we do, we become a model for others to follow.

Have a meaningful week!

