

If I Owned the World

One morning as I was driving to work, I encountered, in a very short period of time, two drivers in front of me who slammed on their brakes and made abrupt right turns without signaling. The first time, I rolled my eyes, silently considered an alternative name for the person driving, and continued on. But at the second occurrence, I screeched and thought of words usually reserved to be used by truckers and decided if I owned the world those drivers not using turn signals would be arrested, convicted as criminals and spend their lives in prison. Maybe a little extreme; but at that moment, it seemed reasonable.

When I arrived at work and I was ranting about the problem, I reiterated to my partners that if I owned the world, things would be different. Almost in unison, they decided that if I owned the world they would certainly want to live someplace else. But how many times have you encountered life situations that left you vacillating as to how you would handle things if you were left in charge? How many times have you wished you owned the world? What things would you change?

If I owned the world, drivers would not be allowed to ride with their car windows down while they blast annoying rap music. Did you ever notice how no one who does this plays classical?

If I owned the world there would be no federal income tax on social security payments. Double taxation was the reason for the Boston Tea Party.

If I owned the world, the customer would always be right. Not such a novel idea, but somehow the philosophy has gotten lost.

If I owned the world, parking meters would not need to be fed on Saturdays as well as Sundays, and they would all dispense change. How often have you found that great parking space only to discover that you have no change in your wallet?

If I owned the world all telephone systems would have an option to press "0" to get a live person who would answer in just a few rings. How often have you tried to reach a person to no avail? How often have you gone through so many options that by the time you get to the last one, you have forgotten what the first 5 options were, only to press "0" to discover that "This is not an option."

If I owned the world, Christmas decorations would come down no later than January 15th, so that on the 4th of July you would not see Santa's reindeer and the American Flag hanging at the same time from the same front porch of your neighbor across the street.

If I owned the world unruly children would not be allowed in public places; cashiers would have to be pleasant; waiters and waitresses would not chew gum while they are taking orders; people wearing cheap perfume would not be allowed on rush hour trolleys or in packed elevators; adults without manners would not be allowed in upscale restaurant dining rooms; and, parents who bring their small children to long church services would not be allowed to say "sit down and shut up" more than once.

If I owned the world, public companies would only hire people who understand what “work ethic” means; and siestas would be a required employee benefit.

If I owned the world, anything chocolate would be calorie free; twist off caps would do just that; and things packed in hard plastic would be self opening.

But in the meantime, before I own the world, I can only hope that as I go through life I will encounter thoughtful drivers; classy human beings with manners; people with parenting skills to create obedient children; thoughtful neighbors; pleasant and well trained people; intelligent business owners; and products and services that benefit the consumer as least as much as the business owner.

And until you and I do own the world, we can at least see that our small part of it is the best it can be. If everyone followed suit imagine what a wonderful world that would be. I certainly would like to own a world like that.