

# *Knowing When to Walk Away*

Whether you are in a business or personal relationship, it is important to recognize when the relationship is going nowhere and that it might be time to walk away or terminate the relationship. When you enter into a business or personal relationship, you had certain expectations as to how the relationship would develop and progress. If you have been dating the same person for several years, there is the expectation that it may lead to marriage. When this turns out that the person doesn't want to get married, you look elsewhere. If you go into a business venture with another person and there is a conflict in management styles and the direction the company is going in, maybe it is time to look for a new line of work. If you have invested in a company's stock and the company's performance is not up to par, you take your money out and invest it elsewhere. In all these examples, whether it be personal, business or investment, if the relationship is not what you wish to experience, then maybe it's time to walk away.

People choose to stay in a dead end or destructive relationships because they fear that they don't have a choice. Others people invest into business relationships and feel that they can't out. Still others invest in stocks in the "hope" that the market will go back up and their investments will be saved. In all these examples, the parties hope, desire, or wish that some specific outcome will occur, but that specific outcome it is not predicated on reality.

Whether he/she is a great person or not, if the relationship doesn't address your needs then you have to evaluate the relationship. If the business venture is not creating the experiences that you want, then maybe it is time for you and your partners to part your separate ways. No amount of hope or wish will change the come. There will always be conflicts. Likewise in the stock market, if the stock is not performing up to your expectations, sell the stock and buy another. There is no rule that says you have to ride the stock down in the "hope" that you will be able to ride it back up again. Think of the time value of money. How long will it take for the stock to go

back up? Will it eventually go back up? Is there a better investment for your money?

Knowing when to walk away means that you are looking at the situation objectively. If it is not the experience that you wish, then maybe it is time to walk away. Walking away doesn't mean that you are less of a person for it. It just means that you are looking at things rationally and your primary objective is to look after your self interest first. Being able to walk away means that you know the reason(s) you entered into the relationship in the first place, why you have maintained the relationship, and whether you wish to continue to have the same experience. Even if the business or investment is making money, it may not be the experience you want if you are in constant conflict with your partners.

Do you know when it is time to walk away?

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