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Lone Ranger or Team... Which Do You Choose?

By Clay S. Nelson, President – Clay Nelson Life Balance
a division of Consulting Services Network LLC



The days of **effectively leading** on a **white horse, with a black mask** on your face and a red bandana around your neck, are **definitely over!** The notion that we can operate as the Lone Ranger is acknowledged by most as something that, at the very least, is not the healthiest way to nurture and grow a company, family, or people as powerful individuals. So, why do so many of us continue to operate that way? [*Continue >*](#)





Being the "Lone Ranger" is a habit, one that we have to be present to if we want to kick it. For many, the perceived time and effort required for doing so is just not worth it. So what do we have to give up to acknowledge that the "Lone Ranger" way of being costs us our families, employees, companies and ourselves? What do we need to do to build an unstoppable and outrageous team where there is no room for the Lone Ranger?

We have to give up being right!

Being right when called upon in class as a child was a good thing. Being right about the need for control, as in "I'm the only person who I can count on to complete this task correctly," or "Teaching someone else how to work on this project will take more time than it is worth," is a sure fire way to wear yourself out, trample your so called "team", and keep your company and life wallowing in the status quo.

The choices we make dictate who we are being and what we accomplish.

Choosing to be the Lone Ranger, or to be part of a team, is about making a conscious choice. As you consider your choice and the consequences it can bring, I want you to think about this: "LY" added to the end of "LONE" spells LONELY!





Building an Unstoppable Team

It is the eleventh hour and time is running out on a project deadline. The project, in the works for several weeks, has been plagued by setbacks. With a few days left to hammer away, your team is worn down. They have surrendered to the notion that making the deadline is impossible, and what energy they do have is going into figuring out how to skate past the established by-when, and participating in “passing the buck”. Hum. Does this sound familiar to anyone? In all likelihood, each of us has been here at some point before. It is actually standing here that Lone Rangers justify being a Lone Ranger.

Being unstoppable means that you and your team are 1000% committed to being your word and achieving whatever it is you say you are going to achieve, by-when you say you are going to achieve it!

So what is there to learn from these experiences, and how can you avoid the temptation to take control being a Lone Ranger and, instead, create an unstoppable team?

- **Commitment:** The #1 key to having a totally awesome and unstoppable team is to have a committed team; a team that is determined to reach your established goals and objectives no matter what; a team committed to the goal even in the face of not knowing for sure how to get there.





- **Communication:** Without communication, even a great team will eventually breakdown. Fact is we are all human. Your team is human, and we all face human-type “stuff”. Being unstoppable means that you and your team are 1000% committed to being your word and achieving whatever it is you say you are going to achieve, no matter what! *No matter what*—the unknown and our human stuff—brings up one of the biggest things we face... Fear! No one can read our minds and without you and your team communicating your fears, your upsets, your enthusiasm, your expectations, and your boundaries, your team will ultimately fall short. So, if you want an unstoppable team, you have to communicate fully and completely, always!

If there is something you want and you don't have it...

ASK FOR IT!

- **Delegation:** Nothing will dampen the spirit of a team faster than a team leader who is unwilling to fully delegate and utilize the talents of his or her fellow team members. Leaders who operate in this fashion are very thoughtfully referred to as Control Monsters. Now don't be offended if you see yourself here. Truth is, many of us have played this part at some point in our lives, and many more of us are card-carrying members of the club. The key to overcoming the club's clutches and having an outrageous team is to acknowledge your tendency, clean up where it has cost others, forgive yourself, stay present to your tendency, and when you need help...ASK FOR IT! **Remember:** If there is something you want and you don't have it... ASK FOR IT!





- **Authority:** When you delegate to your team you have to be careful not to trample the authority you give them to carryout the delegation. When you disagree with the way in which a team member carries out a project that you have delegated to them, discuss the issue directly with that person. Don't undermine the authority you give people to act in your behalf by "fixing" what you see as a problem behind their back. Instead, discuss your opinion with your team member directly, find out why they are going about what they are doing in the way that they are, and if you still disagree with the approach, work together on a solution. Sound time consuming? Possibly, but consider what you and your team could learn and apply to future situations, and besides that, the time consumed by upset and consternation far outweighs the time it takes to have a conversation with your team members.

The lack of accountability is the greatest pitfall of most teams and their leadership.

- **Accountability:** The lack of accountability is the greatest pitfall of most teams and their leadership. People don't want to be held accountable, nor do they want to hold others accountable, and then they wonder why their team fails to measure up and obtain their goals. If you want a solid team that is steadfast, focused, and unstoppable, everyone must own that they are accountable for what they say they are going to do, by-when they are going to do it, and the results they obtain.







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- **Passion:** Passion runs deeper than excitement. It is something that grabs you deep down inside and makes you wholeheartedly say, "Yes. I definitely want to be a part of this!" That is passion, and at its core it does not wane. Now, that is not to say that passion does not burn low from time to time, but this is where the human-type stuff shows up and can bring you down, if you let it. So how do you keep passion burning on high? Vision, communication, commitment, doing what you love, asking for what you want, giving up being a Lone Ranger, and building an phenomenally unstoppable team!

So which is it going to be... **Lone Ranger**—overwhelmed, no fun, and all alone—or **Team Leader**—fun, outrageous, passionate, and unstoppable? **What do you choose?**



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LIFE balance
FAMILY. FUN. FINANCE.

*Clay S. Nelson, the founder of **Clay Nelson Life Balance**, a division of Consulting Services Network LLC, and his team are committed to putting fun, family and financial freedom into everyone's business and personal lives. With over two decades of experience coaching business leaders in creating life balance, building teams, and writing plans, their programs are designed to alter the cultures of companies and families. They make a powerful and lasting difference with each person they meet, every group they speak with, and with every client they serve.*



Sherpa info

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NAVIGATION & USER TIPS

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KEYBOARD SHORT CUTS

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Zoom out	[Ctrl] [-]	[⌘] [-]
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ABOUT THE CONCRETE SHERPA

The Concrete Sherpa is a team of people that represent the experience, teaching and learning of our team members and other industry leaders *on a mission to make life better for the concrete contractor*. We are an idea center striving to deliver thought provoking ideas based on “Concrete Advice for Business and Life” to stimulate you to reach new heights. As a user, you should remember to consider all information you receive, here at the Concrete Sherpa or elsewhere, not as a *cast in concrete* recommendation, but rather as an idea for you to consider and ponder.

Sherpa info

THE JOURNEY LEADING TO THE CONCRETE SHERPA PROJECT

The Concrete Sherpa Project (A [Sherpa](#) is a “guide”) was born at The Concrete Network in mid 2004. Here is how it happened:

The biggest surprise, or gift, since starting The Concrete Network in 1999 has been the concrete contractor friends from around the country we’ve made and witnessing the passion they have for what they do. These people include Dave Pettigrew, up in the San Francisco Bay Area, or the Verlennich brothers in Minnesota, or Bob Harris in Georgia, the list goes on and on. It’s quite inspiring.

We were once asked, “How are you so excited every day about concrete?” Well the answer is simple, it is impossible to not be excited about concrete when you have the job we do—interacting with hundreds of concrete contractors from every state in the country.

The thing we’ve learned about concrete contractors is that most are passionate *craftsmen*—they are often less passionate and experienced in the “office stuff”. Human nature channels us to do what we are most comfortable with; learning how to use a new saw-cutting tool is comfortable; learning and implementing a new estimating strategy, or job management tool, is not so comfortable.

Sherpa info

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...

So Sherpa was born to provide FREE and easy to use information on topics many contractors are not too comfortable with.

- Concrete Sherpa is here to provide help to contractors who are often ‘Lone Rangers’ and don’t have anyone to get solid business advice from.
- Concrete Sherpa is here to provide help for contractors who have to work too hard and too many hours in their business, and one day realize they need to work *on their business, not in their business*.
- Have fun with Concrete Sherpa and go faster towards reaching success than you might have on your own.
- To skeptics who think something free can’t be valuable, or there must be a trick- visit Concrete Sherpa and decide for yourself.

We hope you make great use of the Concrete Sherpa and it helps you to become an awesome success for yourself, your family, your church, and your community.

VISIT THE CONCRETE SHERPA

To visit the Concrete Sherpa click here <http://www.ConcreteSherpa.com>.