

The Rushed Society Manifesto

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Thank you, Joseph Ratliff

The Rushed Society We Live In...

And so it begins...

More on the concept behind how society seems to be degrading later...but we have the beginnings already.

We can talk while we surf the net (at the same time), we text while we drive an automobile, and in the worst possible display of a degrading society...there are actually teenagers (and adults too) texting each other, **while sitting next to each other in the Mall.**

What. The. Fuck?

That's right; it seems we need to **text** each other while occupying space less than 4 feet away from each other. Is it just me? Or does that sound completely idiotic?

People standing 4 feet away from one another can't have a conversation verbally with each other? You're kidding, right?

Right?

I suppose not.

As to the capability to "surf the 'net" while talking on the phone (just saw a TV commercial about a phone advertising this)...

Why on earth do we need to keep finding ways to multi-task?

A bad trend is starting to unfold people, and whether you choose to believe me or not, it **will** come with its negative consequences down the road...guaranteed.

I'm going to expand on the ramifications of all of this "connected-ness" to life, society, and to personal connections as we go on...but for now, just know that we really don't have to become **so** connected, that we're **disconnected**.

Another way of expressing this is:

If we fill our time up with “busy stuff”, either by choice or not, when do personal connections and time with people *really* have priority?

Sure, it’s easy to **say** that you do have personal connections and “family time”...but if you’re honest with yourself (for real), I think you’ll find that you **don’t** have as much of the **truly** important time as you think. 😊

Gadgets and connectivity are nice, so long as your personal conversations don’t suffer at all (the face-to-face ones, remember those?).

I would even go so far as saying if your personal, face-to-face conversations suffer, that’s the upper-threshold of how “cool” gadgets really are.

Does Life Seem To Move Too Fast Sometimes?

Life moves too fast sometimes.

You can text while you're driving, because you "gotta" get that message RIGHT NOW before you get to the same person's house who's texting you in 11 minutes.

11 minutes...you're gonna see that person in 11 minutes...why do you need that text message? **Nothing could be THAT important, could it?**

Life moves too fast.

Shopping in the mall I watched as teenagers called each other on the cell phone from 100 FEET away from each other. They couldn't get close enough to have a personal conversation, oh no, it was obviously important enough that they stay right where they were and talk on a cell phone.

Wasn't it?

Life moves too fast sometimes.

Since we only have one life, one time on this earth, don't you ever want to slow down and enjoy it? No cell phones, no text messages, no laptops...just talking to and enjoying being around the people in your life that you love.

Or, enjoying nature and the things that life provides when you slow down enough to *really* see it.

Or, has "artificial life" taken over your life?

Think about that today.

Are You Living Life Like A Ghost?

Some people are friggin' drones.

That's right, I said it...**drones.**

And I don't understand why anyone with half a mind would want to trudge along doing something or living life any less than what they want to. But before you light off your email program to rip me a new one, know that I was a drone too once.

Going to the "9 to 5"...one that I hated...

Eating when "they" told me to...

Choking back the vomit of the "life" that they were providing for me and my family...

All because I was "supposed" to do it this way. Well guess what rat race, I frickin' won! 😊

Joseph Ratliff 1 Corporate Grind 0 ... game over.

So why do you live the life "you're supposed to"?

You go to school, an ancient institution that if it were a building, would be crumbling at every seam. You go to college, what, so you can get a "good job" like "they" want you to?

Then you get that "good job", and show up when "they" say...eat when they say...do whatever they say...all for one lousy income that's worth far less than the life they are draining from you. But the worst part is...

You keep fucking doing it!

But...

Do you think "they" would think any less about your livelihood when the shit hits the fan? Nope..."sorry John, but we need to make some cuts, and it's your turn to go." They hand you a pink slip, and out the door you go.

Come back to that same workplace a year later, and see if they care, even one bit.

So, what have you **really** wanted to do with your life?

(and it ISN'T what you're doing currently, or you wouldn't be reading this)

Think about that today. Quit choking back the vomit of the life you're "supposed" to have, and get out there to create the life you really want to have.

[**Click here for a place to start...**](#)

Stuff And Clutter...

A lot of people fall victim to “stuff and clutter”.

What do I mean?

Many people live empty, meaningless lives...which have to be filled with “stuff”. The more “stuff” they have to show off, the merrier.

“Hey, look at what I just bought...”

“Doesn’t this thing I just put up in my house look cool?”

“I need more _____, that’ll do the trick.”

“I’ve got so many projects going on right now, I can’t do _____.”

Stuff and clutter, stuff and clutter, stuff...and clutter.

It’s sad actually, that most people place more value on their “stuff”, than on their daily interactions with other people (i.e. they have to “text them really quick” because they are so busy). They place more value on their past memories, than on going out and creating new memories.

More projects to do, more rooms in a house that seem like a nuclear bomb went off, all because they have to feel “busy” doing “stuff” ...creating “clutter”.

It’s sad...really sad.

And before you think this doesn’t apply to you, think really hard first. At one point or another, this applies to almost everyone. What you do about it as a person to change the situation is what really matters.

Can you reach down deep and make the real changes necessary to be able to “stop and smell the roses” as Grandma used to say? Can you?

For most people, the answer ends up being a resounding **no**. They end up being content with their meaningless lives full of stuff, and sans the personal interaction.

Are you most people?

It's Not How Much Work You Do...

It's the quality of what you put out that counts...period.

Personal sacrifice, working for work's sake, putting in 70 hour weeks...what idiot thought of those ideas?

Who came up with the labor law that says you **MUST** work 40 hours a week to be “full-time”? And for that matter, who **REALLY** works ALL 40 of those hours in a week? (be honest with yourself if you think you actually do)

What. The. Hell?

There's no doubt we live in a society where “how many hours a week” is some sort of status symbol (as artificial as that is, the company you work for doesn't care about you). We live in a society where “mass-produced” is the standard of quality for the most part (did you know there is an acceptable level of deaths from food poisoning for some establishments?).

I say we turn the tables as a society.

Focus on the *quality* of the relationships we have, the *quality* of the work we put out (I am **not** suggesting you get yourself into trouble, so use your own judgment), and the *quality* of life we build for ourselves.

Retirement is almost a myth folks, quit working so hard towards an “end” that may not exist (something like 80% + don't have enough to retire on anyhow, so why work so hard for that?).

Instead, take time for the person that really matters, **you**.

It's not how *hard* or how *much* you work...it's how smart and how much leverage you generate with quality work that counts.

Think about that today...and make more time for you.

One Of Life's Most Powerful Questions...

Most people just surf through life like “drones”, doing whatever comes along, being “busy” for busy sake, and hating their jobs.

These people never ask an all-important question:

Why?

- Why do they continue working at a job they hate, wasting their lives for the illusion of “retirement” (over 80% never have enough money to retire on to begin with).
- Why do they work 40-plus hours a week for “status”? (your sacrifice doesn't even go noticed most of the time, and is expected the rest of the time)
- Why do they “settle” at all? (there is some quote out there that says what you settle for is what you get, no matter how bad it is, or something like that)
- Why do they allow other people to control their time? (if you don't control your time, someone else will do it for you)
- Why, if other people are controlling their time, do they complain about being so “busy”, when it was their choice to allow other people to control their time to begin with? (you know, you can say no right? It's ok)
- And on, and on...

We all make conscious choices that allow our lives to be shaped, when we slow down or stop making those choices...outside influences do that for us...and we have to live with the consequences.

So start choosing to live, always [ask “why?”](#), and enjoy your 70 or so trips around the sun.

Living For Life's Little Moments...

Some people work so damn hard for so little reward it saddens me to watch it.

- Cramming project after project (some not even at work), just do “get them done”...doing them in quantity...all for a “little break” at the end.
- Spending 10 – 40 years (or more) of their lives working for some “big company” that doesn't even know they exist...all for a tiny bit of recognition that fizzles in minutes after they receive it.
- Working 40-plus hours a week at some job they hate, then holding that up as a status symbol of their sacrifice (for what?).

And on, and on...

I think we need to turn the tables as a society. To start the process (a process I've completed myself)...I want you to ask yourself a few questions:

1. Do you **really** think of yourself and your family / friends first when using your time? Or does it seem like everyone and everything else fills that time for you?
2. Are you **really** satisfied with busting your knuckles (figuratively or literally) every week for little to no real recognition or reward?
3. Can you do **what you want, when you want to**, without worrying about “all the other commitments” you seemingly have?
4. Does life seem like it moves way too fast, leaving you with a daily feeling of “I wish I could have done _____”?

Think about these questions today, and keep in mind one lesson that could change the way you think about life (if you let it)...

There is always one person in control of the time you have on this planet during your 70 or so trips around the sun...it's either you or someone else (and the choice is *always* yours to make as to who that is).

So quit living for the “little moments”, and start choosing to live for big ones.

We Have To Learn To Slow Down...

“I can’t sit in one place for more than a little bit.”

“I’ve got to do this thing (whatever that thing is)”

“I’m way too busy today”

Bullshit.

Since there is one person who decides how to use your time (that’s you)...all of the above is complete, steaming, B...frickin’....S.

Why **can’t** you sit in one place very long? Why **do** you HAVE to do that thing (whatever that thing is)? Why **are** you too busy today?

Only one reason, because of **you**.

You can choose to sit in one place and relax, as much as you want to. You **don’t** have to do anything that you don’t want to (that’s a hard one for most people). And the only reason you’re “too busy” today is **you** took on way too many commitments for today.

You are in control of **all** of it. But only if you decide **to be** in control of it.

Most people **don’t ever** decide to be in control of it, or find it easier to just let other people control their lives.

Those people miss out on a LOT that life has to offer...period.

What are you going to do differently to slow your life down today?

One Question You Can Ask That Will Change Your Life...

We're conditioned from an early age to "just conform", "just trust the government", "just get a secure job", and "just deal with it."

I used to follow that path. In fact, up until 2001, I was drinking ALL the "kool-aid" of the typical conditioned lifestyle.

Then I asked the most powerful question I think more people need to ask themselves (and other people), so a different perspective starts to take place.

The question is "Why?".

Some examples...

- "Why do I need to run across the house to answer the phone *every* time it rings?" (answering machine or voice mail anyone?)
- "Why can't I express my creative ideas?" (no one said you couldn't, and if they did, they're idiots)
- "Why do I feel prisoner to a job I hate?" (that's your choice, and your choice alone)
- "Why am I relying on someone else (employer) to provide the lifestyle *they* dictate I'm limited to?" (again, your choice)
- "Why can't I just go out and have a better life?"
- "Why do I let other people manage my time?" (it is **your** time, isn't it?)
- **And on...and on...**

So start today, start asking why...challenge the status quo according to other people, stop and smell the roses...and live the life that is *yours* (and **no one** else's).

Because if you don't live your life, other people will be happy to keep dictating how you live it. That I promise.

You ALWAYS Have A Choice...

It almost never fails...every night on the news, there's at least one person blaming "life" or a set of circumstances, or even another person...for **their** failure.

We always have a choice...

...even when things happen to us (i.e. life circumstances), we have a choice as to how we react (thought I would get that one out of the way)...

...when the phone rings, believe it or not we have a choice as to whether we answer it or not...

...we can choose to take action and make our lives better, or simply "ride the government gravy train" as far as it **won't** take you (think about that for a second)...

...you can choose to be more, do more, and add value to people's lives, or choose to be one of the people who "needs help all the time"...

...you can choose to set the rules for yourself, or let others set the rules for you to play by...

Bottom line, there's always a choice.

Yes, it might seem harder to choose a "different" path at first, because you've never traveled that path before (most don't ever travel it)...but as you travel down the path to a better life, you'll find that you don't want to trade it for anything else. Period.

So what are you going to choose to do differently right now?

You Have To CHOOSE To Make Your Life Better...It Won't Be Done For You...

Come on people...really?

Do you really think you can get to a “good life” for yourself by letting any bigger “agencies”, circumstances, the lottery, or other environmental issues be in control?

Nope. It doesn't work that way. Never will, no matter how much you “hope” that will happen. No one “owes” you anything for free, and no one is going to provide you a “break” in life until you've earned it...**period.**

The above-listed items are only there to provide a “minimum” standard of life, period, and end of story.

If you want something more, **you've** got to create it. You've got to work hard and **make it happen...or it won't** happen...period. It's on you to create the life you desire, and the results will reflect how well you are creating that life...period...no one else is to blame for the life you have, except you. That's the bottom line.

Instead, go create something, add value to someone else's life, or start a business to deliver value to a community. We look forward to your offering. 😊 Oh yeah, your pocketbook will thank you too.