

Winning At All Costs

How important is winning? Is winning at all costs worth it? What is the outcome for the losers? In America, society is ingrained early on to win.

Merriam-Webster's definition of "win": to achieve victory in fight, contest, game, etc.; to get something, such as a prize by achieving victory in a fight, contest, game, etc.; to get something by effort.

Winning at all costs can be misleading. If mankind at large decides that winning is paramount and that losing is unacceptable, what will be the unintended consequences of such a hardline? There are limitless arguments surrounding winning and losing.

The subject of winning versus losing is complex. I find it interesting that the ideas of winning and losing are generally addressed in black and white, but there appears to be substantial amounts of gray. For example – If a farmer's only way to subsist and survive is by growing food, the effort of tilling, planting, irrigating, fertilizing and harvesting crops is essential. What will happen if the farmer fails to yield any food? The repercussions are dire; hence, winning at all costs is imperative. What about in the class room? Am I suggesting that every student needs to win, i.e. make straight A's? Not exactly; I do however sense the students' dilemma is similar to the farmers'. Students need experience. Albert Einstein said, "The only source of knowledge is experience." It is necessary for a



student to learn the alphabet before learning to write. Likewise, it is necessary to learn addition to understand multiplication. More advanced skills require greater learning. To succeed in life requires winning. For every winner there does not have to be a loser. *Losing is winning!* That's correct; if something doesn't work the first time, we learn from experience and adjust accordingly. What about in the Super Bowl? Someone certainly loses. Oh really? I'm not so sure of that – Sports Illustrated reported that players on the second place team earned \$117,000 for a game that last 60 minutes. I say making \$117k per hour doing what you love is winning for sure!

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