



The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in a Culture of Entitlement

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Today we live in a culture that says, “My life should be easy and work well for me.” This attitude, called entitlement, influences our most important institutions: family, business, church, and government. Its effects are devastating, contributing to relational problems, work ethic issues, and emotional struggles.

It comes down to this: People are not getting to where they want to go, because they don’t know how to do life the Hard Way. Their entitlement keeps them from tackling challenges and finding success.

This audiobook provides principles and tools for change. It teaches people the skills of learning to tackle and resolve matters that are difficult, rather than avoiding them, giving up too quickly, or hoping someone else will do it for them. The habits gleaned from this audiobook will lead to success in the listener's relationships, finances, self-care, and work. When the listener faces what must be faced, he stands to meet his goals and resolve his struggles better and faster. In that sense, this audiobook brings a great deal of hope and positivity to a tough arena of life.

The Hard Way is simple: it is facing any challenge required to accomplish what matters most. Anything worth doing will have a cost of being hard to do. But when we learn how to do the right things, and push through the pain that comes, we stand a much better chance of success.

Sometimes trials are put upon us, such as a troubled marriage, a failing business, or an illness. At other times they are opportunities where we need to take a risk, such as starting a part-time business, or simply being vulnerable with someone. At still other times they are problems that must be faced, such as a troubled teen, a conversation we have been avoiding, or a team at work that needs to be restructured. Whatever the context, the Hard Way is the first and best way to approach a good outcome.

The Entitlement Cure: Finding Success in a Culture of Entitlement Details

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John says

This is not an extremely helpful book into suggestions and techniques, however it's a nice kick in the pants for motivation and revisiting my thought processes in terms of work, relationships, financial stability, etc.

However, it is a heavily Christian book. And as WASA (White Anglo Saxon Agnostic/Atheist), I've got a black belt in entitlement and had to approach this with a more patient frame of mind, which was very helpful.

This book is about taking the HARD WAY, not is whatever is easiest or most expedience. And is good motivation in the way Dale Carnegie is--intellectually, not so deep, but inspirational in doses such as a car ride.

Paige Gordon says

Dr Townsend scores another home run with this book! He addresses the issue of entitlement in our culture with his usual direct honesty that you just can't help but be convicted by and always makes you want to become a better person. This book was awesome and since (as he so clearly lays out) we ALL deal with pocket entitlement in Some area of our life, I think everyone would benefit from reading this one! It is well worth your time.

Favorite Quote: "Throughout the stages of life, whom we choose to let inside and whom we choose to keep out will impact both what we want and need out of life and how successful we are in achieving it."

Nate Balcom says

Every so often you're blessed to read a book that is truly life-changing. The Entitlement Cure is one of those rare gems! Rooted in Biblical principals this book explains how each of us can get off our high horse. It's practical advice reminds us that God is the center of the universe not us, and that the universe owes us nothing. I found it extremely insightful given the current climate of our nation where many people feel the country and life OWES them everything. Read it for yourself but more importantly read it for the strategies to deal with entitled family and friends. Thanks Brent for the recommendation! Townsend's books on Boundaries are also great reads!

Janka H. says

Hard words. Said by a very frank male.

Yet these are very, very needed words. So while I am saying that I don't consider all the cases presented here as the cases of entitlement (some of them are the cases of pride/laziness/complexes and more in my books) and while from time to time I beg to differ theologically - this is the book I have had needed to read. And I think I need to think about the content continually. So much food for thought, so much challenges - yet, so much truth, encouragement, and a difficult journey that leads to peace in the soul.

Recommended read.

Chris Williams says

Townsend's a bit of a stiff writer and there's a bit of repetition here -- also, I understand it's for Christian audiences, but the scripture actually seems forced-in and distracting. But under it all is a much-needed book, not just for today's entitled kids but for people (sadly, like me) who just don't like doing things the hard way. Practical at helping understand what's behind our lazy behavior, with some great advice for moving forward. Not revolutionary, but a healthy look at discipline and endurance that we probably all could benefit from.

Taylor Burrows says

At the beginning of this book, I was excited to see what the author says about people with entitlement habits. It reminded me very directly of some over the top individuals that I see on television and in my personal life as well as helped me examine certain attitudes that I have had. Worth noting, this book is written in a deliberate Christian context, so if the reader is unwilling to examine the problem with scripture thrown in there, they'll probably be disinterested in the book.

First, he starts with some stories that people might be able to relate to. He then gives a reference guide to how everyone has different entitlements on the basis of what they believe they deserve. He then proposes the "Hard way" of doing things because it prevents an entitlement based personality where one would say "I am above doing this". He then uses the rest of the book to examine some of the ways to address it.

Unfortunately, the book is very generalized as far as how to address it assumingly to reach a broader audience. That said, I feel like it's overly broad and fails to build a defined structure in course of action that helps an entitled individual relate to why they should even care about not being the embodiment of human waste. Townsend's way of addressing this is: 1)just keep working at it because it takes time and 2)if they choose not to change, it's their decision.

That's all fine and dandy, but that just leads me to believe that this book is designed more to address and self-examine pocket entitlements rather than helping others. Honestly, I feel like those entitled individuals are still better off being addressed by mental health professionals than by the average joe that read a brief book on the topic.

Eric says

Do you feel this generation is entitled? It might be best to consider everyone to a certain degree has

entitlement toward something, and Dr. Townsend goes into detail about this in the book. He tends to divide the mindset in 2 ways: the I'm entitled way aka the "easy" way, and the "hard" way. Throughout the book he defines and shows the hard way to doing things. To give you an idea what Dr. Townsend means by entitlement, he writes, "Entitlement is the belief that I am exempt from responsibility and I am owed special treatment."

Overall, a few chapters really spoke to me. One of those chapters talked about changing "I deserve" to "I am responsible." While I am not sure how often I think or act as if I deserve something, I do know how often I don't take initiative for responsibility.

The things I would have liked to see was research backing up his statements. Dr Cloud and Dr. Townsend write excellent, helpful books but they always tend to lack the research their ideas are coming from. His last chapter on risk-taking was a little rushed too.

If you truly want to get rid of entitlement in your own life, or if you truly love someone that's entitled and want to help them, then this book is worth a look.

Daniel says

The content of the book was excellent. The format, audiobook, detracted from the content. This is a book I want to buy and recommend. I wouldn't recommend the audio.

1) Tracks = chapters. Good because you could go directly to a chapter easily. Bad because some tracks ran 25 minutes or more. My player in my vehicle had issues around minute 9 in one of those long tracks. It was hard to get back to where I was on the disk.

2) Read by the author. Good because the author should know his subject. Bad because it felt rushed at some places. At times it was hard to determine when he was doing a subheading in the chapter or pausing for emphasis.

3) Content was great. I realized I have a few areas I feel entitled. I need to confront those areas. Part of why I wish to buy the book is the tools offered for you to help those who have entitlement issues in their life. I see this as a good reference tool.

My rating is based on the experience with the audiobook. I would rate this 5 stars for the content.

Brandon Urwin says

Great read if you want a comprehensive look on entitlement. So prevalent in today's society and the definition is expanded like this, you realize how much entitlement there is around us and sometimes in us (no matter how big or small). Felt a little dragged out at some points and sometimes I wondered how some things linked to entitlement - felt a bit off the topic of entitlement sometimes. But all in all, very interesting read.

Denise says

Very insightful into understanding our culture of entitlement and how to counter it. Also very insightful to see the areas where I myself feel entitled and how to stop that.

Tressa says

I thought this one was full of a lot of good ideas. However, the Bible verses out of context made me drop it a star.

Summer says

I found this searching for "self help audio books" that were "available now". When I saw the title I was like "Ya! That's what I need!" because I was being whiny about school and I thought this would stop me from being so whiny.

Unfortunately it's more about OTHER people than yourself. This is a good book for people who struggle with OTHER entitled individuals in their lives. Like, if you have an entitled kid or friend, this gives you ideas to deal with them.

It did also contain SELF help advice but it was about 70/30 split, with the majority outward facing.

Overall, it was ok. I didn't hate it. But there are other books that do the subject so much better and with much more inward focus.

ETA: I should mention that his description of the "entitlement" attitude in others was SO SPOT ON, my chin dropped and I had to stop listening for a while to absorb it. He really hits it perfectly in the first chapter. It was astounding to hear him put into words this phenomenon that I had only vaguely observed.

Christy Bower says

God is using The Entitlement Cure by John Townsend to change my life. I wouldn't have thought of myself as "entitled"—a bit self-centered from being introverted, yes, but not "entitled." According to the author, "Entitlement is the belief that I am exempt from responsibility and I am owed special treatment."

As I read the first few chapters, I was uncomfortable with the content. I kept thinking about setting it aside to read later, but I also knew my discomfort was a sign I needed to press in to find the source of my uneasiness.

As John Townsend began to explain the path of least resistance followed by people with entitlement issues versus the "Hard Way" followed by people who overcome obstacles in life and find success, I knew I was onto something that would help me. According to the author, the Hard Way is "The habit of doing what is best, rather than what is comfortable, to achieve a worthwhile outcome."

One thing that struck me early on was that my generation was taught to reframe negatives as positives because it's better for your mental health. But Townsend suggests that if we don't allow ourselves to identify negative things in our lives then we don't have anything to change. You have to identify a problem before you can fix it so calling it something else prevents you from making changes.

He offers a number of mantras throughout the book—first person declarations of principles to live by and the reasons the Hard Way is better.

Townsend's explanation for getting unstuck (which is how I've felt for years) set me into immediate action: "Your Next Hard Thing (NHT) is the choice you need to make that will get you past the difficulty." Instead of the overwhelm of too many things that seem too big or out of control, he suggests taking one small step each day. As you chip away at that big problem, it won't be so big and eventually, you'll overcome your obstacles.

He also explained that "Doing stuff that doesn't seem productive is an improvement over not doing anything except the same thing you've always done." *Headslap* Well, of course! I feel stuck because I'm approaching things the same way I always have (which includes a lot of avoidance) so doing something different is an improvement, even if it seems unproductive at the moment. That is helpful to me in changing my habits and how I look at them.

I hate to be dramatic, but this is potentially a life-changing book for me. If you or anyone you know seems stuck in life, The Entitlement Cure would be a worthwhile read. Townsend also spends a lot of time addressing loved ones in how they can help others who are living with "the entitlement disease." (BTW, that's the one thing I took exception to. I didn't like him referring to it as a disease because I felt that belittles people with actual diseases or mental illness.)

Go. Buy. Read. Overcome.

This review, along with additional book quotes, first appeared on my blog, ChristyBower.com.

Alexis says

I don't really dig self-help books. I read this one because it was required by my job. SOO glad! I was really amazed by what actually constitutes "entitlement". Specifically, that the ultimate way entitlement plays out in our lives is when we attempt to "play God". We are created beings and yet we constantly question the creator. "Well, if I were God I wouldn't do it like xyz." This book is a lesson in humility and empowerment at the same time. Because when we are humble enough to accept what is out of our control, it gives us strength and energy for the things we can. Namely, ourselves. I went into this book thinking how it would help entitled Millennials and realized that my Depression-Era in laws (no they do not follow me on this site!) are actually entitled as well. Because anyone who thinks they can do things all by themselves and their way is the ONLY way is not only completely wrong but, yes, ENTITLED! So if you know or have relationship with or actually are a HUMAN then you should read this book. But I say READ, because I listened to the audio and it was pretty awful (read by the author no less). Hence the 4 stars.

Melanie Emerson says

This was one of the best books I have read in a while. This book is a great reminder of how approaching life knowing it isn't easy and shouldn't be easy makes the every day struggles more manageable. This book will give you skills to work on at the end of each chapter and will help you find ways to help yourself and also be a better member of your life team. The book also directs you to scripture. Highly recommend!
