

Much Is Required

By Lesley Leslie



New Year, new you right? Lots of New Year's resolutions to lose weight, start a business, finish that college degree, etc. Any thoughts about being a better you this year? While it is most definitely a blessing to be alive to experience a new year, we have to admit that the last one ended on a sour note for our country as a whole. The number of sexual harassment allegations in a variety of industries should really cause our society to take a long, hard look at how we treat one another. Although the majority of the charges that were brought to light were of men who were accused by women, there were also a number of cases involving men charged with sexual harassment or inappropriate behavior in the workplace towards other males. Regardless of the sexual orientation surrounding the particular case, the common factor within each of the cases was that the accused was someone in a position of power or authority.

While public figures such as entertainers, politicians, athletes and local community leaders have the ability to influence individuals, young and old, there is a responsibility that comes along with that sort of power. Such influence can transform someone into a role model, even though they may have no desire to become one. Nevertheless, when someone is in a position where they have the ability to impact another person's life, that power can often be abused. Then, when the abuser is not held accountable for their actions, they may come to believe that they are above the law or that rules do not apply to them. So it's no surprise that those abusers may have very little regard for the people that they mistreat.

The tide is turning now and the disrespectful behavior is being reported and exposed. When enough people stand up for what is right, the entitlement that those in positions of power have come to rely on is shattered. May the New Year bring about a shift in power.