

Is Your Job a "Fit"?

Most people have heard some version of the saying about putting a round peg in a square hole; the implication is that it doesn't work because it won't "fit." That's exactly why so many people have been unable to really enjoy their work; they don't fit.

Putting a round peg in a round hole and a square peg in a square hole is the basic concept for finding a career that fits. It sounds simple, but there are two problems. *First*, many people completely ignore trying to find a match.



They've been told, "*You can do anything if you set your mind to it,*" so they choose their career based on criteria other than their talents. *Second*, many people don't have a clear picture of what their talents are. They may make some bad assumptions about their strengths, or they may be steered by those around them who also may not have an objective view.

This situation is addressed specifically in a book titled *Boundaries* by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Here are their comments:

"Boundaries are where our identity comes from. Boundaries define what is me and what is not me. Our work is part of our identity because it taps into our particular giftedness and the exercise of those gifts in the community."

"However, many people are unable to ever find a true work identity. They stumble from job to job, never really finding anything that is 'them.' More often than not, this is a boundary problem. They have not been able to own their own gifts, talents, wants, desires, and dreams because they are unable to set boundaries on others' definitions and expectations of them."

The term "boundaries" fits quite well with the concept of a pattern of talents. Boundaries define a shape, and all people have been given a unique shape that is determined by their talents and interests.

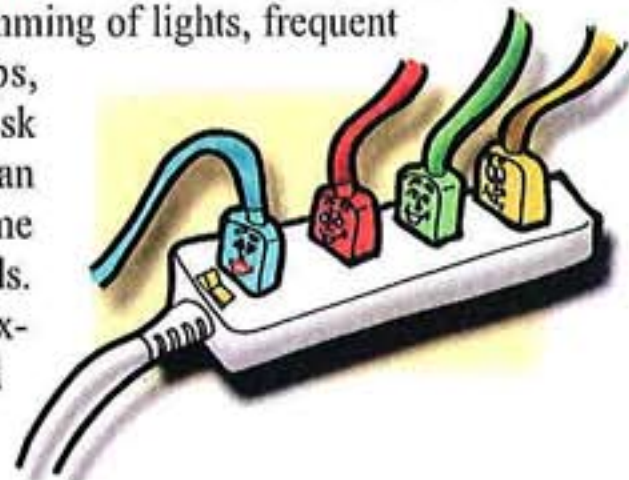
And, just as you have a unique shape, there's a career out there with a list of requirements that fits you. Many people have been counseled because they were in a vocational mismatch. Amazingly, no one had ever pointed out to them that they really didn't fit. However, when a career assessment revealed their true pattern, they were relieved and excited about their future possibilities.

Larry Burkett (1939-2003), a well-known author, teacher, and radio personality, was co-founder of Crown Financial Ministries, whose daily radio broadcasts are heard on more than 1,000 stations in the U.S. Larry's best-selling books include The Coming Economic Earthquake, What Ever Happened to the American Dream? and Victory Over Debt.

Protect Against Shock

Here are some general safety tips to help you create a safe home:

- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on every floor, outside sleeping areas, and in every bedroom, and are in good working order.
- Look for telltale signs of electrical problems such as dimming of lights, frequent circuit breaker trips, or blown fuses.
- Ask a qualified electrician to inspect your home for electrical hazards.



- Limit the use of extension cords and make sure power strips and surge protectors are designed to handle the loads for their intended use. Avoid overloading circuits with too many items in the same outlet.
- Use light bulbs that are the proper wattage for the fixture.
- Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.
- Keep dry leaves away from outdoor lighting, outlets, and power cords.
- Don't coil power cords or extension cords while in use. Don't tuck them under rugs, carpets, or curtains.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair. Don't tuck an electric blanket under mattresses or a person, and don't put anything on top of the blanket while in use, such as comforters or bedspreads. Never allow pets to sleep on the electric blanket.

Caring for Pets in Cold Weather

Though the official start of winter is a few weeks away, in many parts of the country it's cold right now. That means it's time to plan for your pets. The American Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals gives this advice:

- ◆ Make sure outside animals have fresh, unfrozen water. Pets need extra water in cold weather.
- ◆ If you have a cat: It's best to keep a cat inside all winter, even if he usually spends some time outside. Cats can freeze easily and can get injured or lost in snow or ice.
- ◆ If you have a dog, avoid walking him or her on salt-treated roads or sidewalks. Salt can injure their sensitive paws, and they may lick it off and get sick.
- ◆ Let a dog's coat grow longer in the winter, but brush it often. Buy a sweater for short-haired dogs.

