

Date: 08/31/2019 05:51 PM CDT

Subject: Inmates - the flip side

While the Staff are dealing with changing the Us against Them attitude among their peers; you have "inmates" that seem to be set on doing as much wrong as they can get away with.

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More than half the men here understand what is at stake and how it can help us, our families, our State and will impact the next 2-decades of recidivism.

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Then there are those...criminally minded...individuals.

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I am doing my laundry one morning before classes, knowing I have plenty of time to finish and be on time to class. A guy walks up, pulls out the wet laundry from the dryer and puts his own in. Leaving the wet laundry in a pile on top.

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My first thought is violence and anger, so I step away for a moment, think through the options.

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I decide to take the hit, I will be late for class and stay to take care of whomever's laundry is wet and piled up. But I have to talk to this guy. After calmly explaining that his selfish action will make me late for school and is very inconsiderate of the person whose laundry was in the dryer... He starts to lecture me about the "ways of prison". I respond that I am aware, but we can choose to do the better thing and not continue the cut throat, selfish mentality of the "prison way".

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It was like talking to a puddle of water. He didn't care and couldn't see beyond his own selfishness. This is the kind of attitude that will likely bring him back to prison. It is also the attitude that triggers violence in prison. I was proud of myself for not going there. It could easily have triggered a violent response in most cases.

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If this program fails, it's because of a small handful of criminal inmates like that.

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While the majority who are striving to do better and prove the value of this program have to tolerate the criminal mind and walk the edge of the "prison way" because the "system" rewards those with bad behavior, punishes everyone for the actions of a few and has no accountability for an individuals poor behavior. The clash of attitude