



Joni Bernard Hagebock

19 hrs ·

My dad, [Dick Bernard](#) shared this with me yesterday. It was printed in the church bulletin at my Aunt Florence's church in Park Rapids many years ago and shared in his blog (most recently in October 2016) as well. I've learned that when you put yourself (be it your opinion, a funny story, family brags, pictures, etc.) out there, you are taking a risk. When it comes to sharing an opinion, you will be subjected to accolades and agreements as well as criticisms and mockery. Since my post on Thursday, I've experienced accolades, agreements, criticism, shaming, mockery, and even some wickedly hateful pm's. I accept them all as they, too, are taking risks. I know that I've learned from people who don't agree with me, and I'd like to believe that they've learned something from me. Those of you who know me know that I'm not one to shy away from sharing my opinion or taking a risk. I encourage you all to be bold, be brave, and take risks. There is simply too much at stake if we don't and choose silence over engagement.

"To laugh is to risk appearing the fool
To weep is to risk appearing senti-
mental. To reach out for another is to
risk involvement. To expose feelings is
to risk exposing your true self. To
place your ideas, your dreams before a
crowd is to risk their loss. To love is
to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying. To hope is
to risk despair. To try is to risk
failure. To serve God is to risk danger
and martyrdom.

But risks must be taken, because the
greatest hazard in life is to risk
nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does
nothing, has nothing and is nothing.
They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but
they cannot learn, feel, change, grow,
love, live. Chained by their certitudes
they are a slave, they have forfeited
their freedom.

Only a person who risks is free."