

So This is Christmas

By John Lennon 1971

Good news- Written by the same artist who wrote Imagine, Come Together and a zillion other songs, this one has a timeless message.

Bad news- It's a protest song, but also a Christmas song, so if you don't celebrate Christmas, please substitute Hanukah, Kwanza, Ramadan, Diwali, Buddha Day, Zagnuk, Winter Solstice, Year-End or Festivus (the holiday for the rest of us).

Good news- It actually has some very practical lessons for companies, organizations, departments and individuals that I have turned into applications and tactics! As usual, I hope you can put them to use right away.

Summary:

The lyrics are based on a campaign in late 1969 by John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, who rented billboards and posters in eleven cities around the world that read: "WAR IS OVER! (If You Want It) Happy Christmas from John and Yoko". The cities included New York, Tokyo, Rome, Athens, Amsterdam, London, Paris, Toronto, Helsinki, and some others. At the time the US was deeply entrenched in the unpopular Vietnam War. The line "War is over, if you want it, war is over, now!", as sung by the background vocals, was taken directly from the billboards.

The lyrics:

So this is Christmas (Hanukah, Kwanza, etc.)

And what have you done

Another year over

And a new one just begun

And so this is Christmas

I hope you have fun

The near and the dear ones

The old and the young

A very merry Christmas

And a happy New Year

Let's hope it's a good one

Without any fear

And so this is Christmas

For weak and for strong

For rich and the poor ones

The world is so wrong

And so happy Christmas

For black and for white

For yellow and red ones

Let's stop all the fight

A very merry Christmas

And a happy New Year

Let's hope it's a good one

Without any fear

Applications:

Well...I think there are a few obvious ones:

1. This time of year it makes sense to look back at 2010 and do some assessing. What have you done? What have you not done? What do you want to do more of, less of?
2. Plan 2011 (and make sure you have some fun).
3. In your plans, plan to take care of others that need it (the near and the dear ones, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor, and people of all colors and stripes).
4. Stop fighting (or at least manage conflict better) and
5. Let's make 2011 a (really) good one, without any fear (or recession, or layoffs, or political squabbles), or, well...let's push a bit more this year. You might find some others.

Happy holidays!!

And Finally:

I work with many clients to improve what they do, as you know. My single resolution for 2011 is to "practice what I preach". Maybe John Lennon's words can help. If you want more thoughts about this, or want to add your own, check out my blog. You can visit it at <http://richsteel.blogspot.com/> This opinion and others are posted on my web site: www.rsbc.com To talk more about this and other topics, e-mail me (Rich Steel) at rsbc@aol.com or call me at my office on 610 388 3680 or on my cell at 610 324 8466.