

Enough is Enough

You're the founder and operating manager of a large, world-wide corporation. You intend to open a new branch in the southwest and it requires you choosing a new District Manager to run that office. Whoever you choose, they will be holding your reputation in their hands.

In the end you name a brilliant young man, who runs that division for 50 years. At the end your board of directors will review his record of service. The question is this--- If you had any idea at the beginning of his tenure about all the foolishness that he'd be involved in, when would you have fired him? (One thing that he does have going in his favor is that after moments of stupidity he almost always immediately shoots off an email or text of sincere apology.)

- Year 1: You name him district manager.
He helps a previous district manager in his apprenticeship.
He solves a major foreign trade problem in a single day.
He brags about his "solution" in the company journal.
But, he sends you and **EMAIL** saying he's sorry about that.
He drives 200 small businessmen out of business.
Another **EMAIL** of apology.
He marries a senator's daughter.
- Year 2: He takes an extended vacation to build up his own interests.
- Year 3: He embezzles company funds for his own use.
He makes a fool of himself in front of some new clients.
A quick **TEXT** Message of apology rapidly follows.
- Year 4: 85 small businessmen take the blame for his mistakes.
An **EMAIL** of apology rapidly follows.
He makes a brilliant merger (with your permission.)
He is insolent and insubordinate to a Board Member.
He apologizes with an **EMAIL**.
- Year 5: He runs off with a secretary... the Senator is not happy.
He ruins a man who won't merge.
He runs off with another secretary.
He tells his wife to leave... the Senator is really steamed!
He sends you an **EMAIL** accepting blame for his idiocy.
He is insolent to the same Board Member.
- Year 7: His fling in a foreign country nearly ruins the company.
His **TEXT** Message shows he really regrets it.
- Year 9: He breaks a merger agreement and destroys the other party.
His **EMAIL** shows he's really sorry for that.
He saves the company from economic disaster... that he caused.

Year 10: He reorganizes and strengthens the company... (in his opinion.)
His **TEXT** reveals he knows he didn't consult you.

Year 18: He drives two crooks out of business and sends them to prison.

Year 23: More secretaries...
More **EMAILS** of apology.
Again saves the company from disaster that he created.
Rebuilds the main factory and office complex.

Year 25: Builds up the economy and cleans more crooks out of the industry.
Makes charitable contributions for noble causes.

Year 28: Puts down a scheme that would have destroyed the company.

Year 32: Ruins a company Vice-President and runs off with his wife.
Boy, is he sorry about that... another **EMAIL** of apology.

Years 33-50 More of the same.

The mistakes take their toll and he slowly loses efficiency. In the end he leaves good advice for the next District Manager, advice that he didn't follow himself during his tenure. But it's all over.

For the sake of the corporation and for your reputation, how much would you have put up with? When would you have fired him?

CLOSEOUT THOUGHTS: I have used this scenario with scores of groups and thousands of youth and young adults. I am not sure anyone has ever let him go past Year 3.

But, you probably already figured this out. As closely as I can parallel it, this is the life story of David. And, every "Text" and "Email" actually represents a time recorded where he turned to the Lord or prayed.

I guess that's why it's called "amazing grace." I don't know about you, but in my case that's incredibly hopeful.