

Find Out How To Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

It's a dangerous thing to have too many convictions and too few actions to support those convictions.

It's dangerous for all the obvious reasons: you tend to become a hypocrite, you tend not to actually help, etc. But it's also dangerous for your ability to form new convictions. I've noticed it in myself: a growing feeling of being jaded at the problems I hear about in the news.

I could certainly be "aware" or "raise awareness" about the new issues of the day in community relations, environment, education, government, etc. But what would I really be adding? There are millions of people who make "awareness" their job.

And so I've tended in the past few years to focus my efforts on a few localized initiatives (church and community) and a handful of bigger ones (clean water, monetary freedom, education alternatives) while ignoring most of the "hot issues."

But then there are things like the protests in Hong Kong.

From when I first heard about the large-scale resistance happening there in reaction against overreaching Chinese surveillance, it had been on the edge of my mind. I was opposed to the Chinese state, I was supportive of the cause of a free Hong Kong, but I was afraid to form much of an opinion partly for fear of becoming another "awareness raiser." How could I really help that situation? The feeling of helplessness made me feel less like learning about the plight of the city, and I admit I buried my head in the sand about it.

Then I realized it was actually fairly easy to start putting my money where my heart was. There have been multiple GoFundMe's started to fund supplies for the protestors (many of whom are just teenagers). Someone on Reddit put together a whole list of ways to support the city and its protestors.

I've started with just a small donation to the Hong Kong Free Press. I mean to do more. It will be small, but it will be something. And because I know how to help now, I expect I'll be following these developments with a clearer eye now.

Aligning action with convictions has that clarifying effect. And the actions don't have to be great.

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