

Are You In Business To Help Customers?

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Are You In Business To Help Customers?

By Bob Leduc

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Customers want to believe you are in business to help them. They don't mind if you make a profit by helping them. But they won't buy from you if they believe you are only in business to get their money.

Here are 4 ways you can assure customers that you are in business to help them.

1. Personalize Your Sales Approach

Customers will not believe you really want to (or can) help them when they see you trying to sell the same product or service to everybody.

Learn everything you can about your customers and their lifestyles. Then, sub-divide your targeted market into several narrowly defined niche markets.

Customize your sales messages to the specific interests and needs of prospects in each niche market. Customers should be able to see your product or service as the perfect solution to their specific situation.

2. Convert Everything Into Customer Benefits

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One way to convince customers you want to help them is to focus on the benefits they can get from you.

Customers don't really care about you, your company, your products or your professional credentials. They only care about the benefits they can get by using your products or services.

Keep this in mind as you develop your web pages, sales letters and other promotional materials. Present everything in terms of the benefit it provides to customers. For example:

...Don't just list the features of your product or service. Explain how those features provide the benefits your customers want.

...Don't just publicize your educational or professional credentials. Describe how those credentials equip you to do a better job for customers than your competitors.

3. Build A Relationship

You can also demonstrate your commitment to help customers by building a relationship with them. Few prospects buy on the first communication – even if they desperately want or need what you are selling.

Stay in contact with these prospective customers. Follow up periodically with some useful information ...and don't charge them for it. Building a supportive relationship proves you want to help them. It gains their trust – and eventually a sale.

Internet Marketers: Make sure you have a way of getting the email addresses of visitors to your web site. You need it to follow up with them. For example, offer a complimentary subscription to your email newsletter – or a complimentary special report delivered by email.

4. Encourage Questions

Answering questions is another way to demonstrate your interest in helping customers. It also captures sales you would otherwise lose from prospects unable to get all the

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information they wanted.

Encourage prospective customers to ask questions when you are in a live selling situation.

Make it easy for customers to ask questions when they are at your web site or in other selling situations without live communication.

For example, provide a phone number customers can call to speak with you or someone else who can answer their questions. Consider using a toll-free number unless you only do business in a local area.

Tip: Include a Q&A page on your web site with answers to frequently asked questions. It will reduce the number of questions you have to answer individually.

Customers know you are in business to make a profit. But they also want to know you are in business to help them. The 4 methods revealed in this article will help you assure customers that you are committed to helping them.

Bob Leduc spent 20 years helping businesses just like yours find new customers and increase sales. He just released a New Edition of his manual, *How To Build Your Small Business Fast With Simple Postcards* and several other publications to help small businesses grow and prosper. For more information:
Email: BobLeduc@aol.com Subject: Postcards
Phone: 702-658-1707 after 10 AM Pacific Time/Las Vegas, NV

Three Business Lessons From The US Postal Service

By Denise O'Berry

There was a buzz in the air recently about the US Postal Service. Seems as though they were running into a budget deficit in the billions.

The Postal Service claimed they must cut Saturday service to customers to stay afloat — a service they had provided for years. And one that customers expected. They said people using email instead of regular mail made a major dent in their profits. Customers were in an uproar. If customers had a choice, they'd lose many. Welcome to the real world of business.

There are three lessons in this for your business.

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Lesson #1: Use indicators, in addition to cash flow, that help you watch the ebb and flow of your business. What can you measure that will tell you quickly — so you can act — about what's happening in your business?

Lesson #2: Don't just whack a service you've been providing your customers. If you need to cut, look inside your business for processes and procedures that can be streamlined to save you money. Cut the fat of your business, not the services.

Lesson #3: Always be on the lookout for new competitors entering your business space. Don't wait for that competition to start taking away your customers. Be proactive. Find ways to offer more value to keep your customers loyal.

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Three Business Lessons From The US Postal Service

It's Better When They Tell Them

It's All About The Customers, Baby

What Market Research Will Tell You

Who Are Your "Most Likely" Customers

How to Gain and Retain More Customers

Refund Plague Mini-Course

The Buy Impulse

Profitable Crafts Vol 1

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