



Live in Love

Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

August 9, 2015

Thought for the Week

We are often confronted with the claim that happiness is just around the corner and that it's a matter of having more or newer things. We sometimes grasp at the pleasures that expensive cars, new clothes and shiny hair can provide. It's not only property that we grasp and hold – we may cling to many things such as our security, our self-image, the idea of being “in control” or the overpowering conviction of being right. We even cling to our miseries – what would it mean to let go of all this? Where does the happiness of the gospels begin?

It might begin with an act of forgiveness, a decision to erase the mental tally of unpaid debts and ancient wrongs. It could also involve the tranquil acceptance of circumstances beyond our control or the acknowledgement that not everything needs to be perfect. Letting go could also begin with an expression of gratitude, a gracious acknowledgement of all we do have and how much we owe to other people. According to the Bible, there lies the way to happiness.

Interesting Quotes

If you don't take a day off, something is wrong. You're doing too much; you're being too much in charge. You've got to quit, one day a week, and just watch what God is doing when you're not doing anything. Go to church, recharge your Celestial batteries, God is Good! *Anonymous*

I come from a really big family, my father was a businessman and what he always instilled in us was to be your own boss. My father built up his business, and he was by no means a rich man, but he figured out how to work four-and-a-half days a week. *Tony Shalhoub*

Anybody can observe the Sabbath, but making it holy surely takes the rest of the week. *Alice Walker*

In every marriage more than a week old, there are grounds for divorce. The trick is to find, and continue to find, grounds for marriage. *Robert Anderson*

On the Lighter Side:

Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays.

Henny Youngman

The mother-in-law came round last week. It was pouring down rain. So I opened the door and I saw her there and I said, 'Mother, don't just stand there in the rain. Go home.' *Les Dawson*

Before deciding to retire, stay home for a week and watch the daytime TV shows. *Bill Copeland*

The fellow that can only see a week ahead is always the popular fellow, for he is looking with the crowd. But the one that can see years ahead, he has a telescope but he can't make anybody believe that he has it. *Will Rogers*

A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen. *Winston Churchill*

Its name is Public Opinion. It is held in reverence. It settles everything. Some think it is the voice of God. *Mark Twain, Europe and Elsewhere*

The secret of success is making your vocation your vacation. *Mark Twain*

In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. *Mark Twain*

The only reason why God created man is because he was disappointed with the monkey. *Mark Twain*

And my personal favorite:

I used to think that nails-down-a-chalkboard was the worst sound in the world. Then I moved on to people-eating-cereal-on-the-phone. But only this week did I stumble across the rightful winner: it's the sound of a baggage carousel coming to a grinding halt, having reunited every passenger on your flight with their luggage, except for you. *Sloane Crosley*

Prayer for Peace

Gracious God, we give thanks for your goodness, your loving care, your guidance, and your vision for creation to be at peace. Forgive us for actions and thoughts that do not promote peace. Guide us in your ways of peace, we pray.

Open our hearts to the people of all nations. Strengthen those who struggle to make change for good in Haiti. Touch the hearts of the political and business leaders of all nations that they might hear their people's cry for justice and peace.

Guide us as we strive to make our lives a reflection of your love for all creation.

In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

My Personal Stewardship Thoughts

Personal Stewardship is a part of our personal traits or qualities that are considered worthwhile; it represents our highest priorities and deeply held driving forces. When you are part of any church, you bring your personal stewardship and beliefs to the body. There they co-mingle with those of the other members of the church to create a family culture.

Personal Stewardship is derived from and grounded in values. These values define how you want to behave with others in a church, organization, or a family. They determine how you and others in the church will value people in the community. The Personal Stewardship of individuals in any church or other organization lead to the actions that are the living enactment of the fundamental values held by most individuals within the church or organization.

The following are examples of values that help make up your personal stewardship. You might use these as the starting point for thinking about and articulating them as a member of the Community of Christ.

Your values are made up of everything that has happened to you in your life and include influences from: your parents and family, your religious affiliation, your friends and peers, your education, your reading, and more. Effective people recognize these environmental influences and identify and develop a clear, concise, and meaningful set of values/beliefs, and priorities. Once defined, values impact every aspect of your life, especially your personal stewardship. You demonstrate and model your values in action in your personal and work behaviors, decision-making, contributions, and interpersonal interaction. You use your values to make decisions about priorities in your daily work and home life.

Your goals and life purpose are grounded in your values.

Choose the values that are most important to you, develop the personal stewardship that you want to embrace. Then live them visibly every day at work and at home. Living your values is one of the most powerful tools available to you to help you be the person you want to be, to help you accomplish your goals and dreams, and to help you lead and influence others. Don't waste your best opportunity. Develop your personal stewardship into a Christ-like vision of your perfect self.