

Wednesday Encouragement

Chisel Away

Recently, the Student Ministry had a mini event to go along with our series on Identity. We carved pumpkins for two reasons. First, I try my best to give opportunities for the teens to explore creative outlets and it also went well with what we were talking about that night—letting God mold us into looking more like Jesus.

So, I went around our ministry modular, watching our students get their hands dirty by carving, shaving and scooping pumpkin into masterpieces. I will always be impressed by the creativity of our teens. We had a variety of masterpieces from the standard jack o lantern you would find in October to batman symbols. We even had one teen carve the New Life Christian Church logo into a pumpkin. It was a good night capped off with a good lesson on God's workmanship (that's us) and how we need to let God do some carving or, in the case of the lesson, chiseling.

Have you ever used a hammer and a chisel?

I have. I appreciate those who are skilled with them, because, let's just say, you will never see me on a HGTV show demonstrating how to use them. To use them, you take the hammer and hit the chisel in such a way that it shears off pieces of whatever you are working to shape it into something of value. Artists can use them on a variety of materials—wood, stone, and even metal.

When used the right way, the chisel can remove large unwanted chunks very quickly, or it can carefully take away small pieces to smooth out and perfect certain areas. So, I really like the imagery of God as the master artist and we are his workmanship, as he works to mold us into the men and women we were meant to be.

God is holding the hammer and the chisel. He wants to skillfully remove what is unwanted in our lives. We can't do it ourselves. We need the master artist's hand. A chunk of marble cannot make itself into a statue. A master artist must use the hammer and chisel to form and mold the marble into the statue we admire in a museum.

When we allow the Holy Spirit/God to chisel us, we realize we are His masterpiece. As it says in Ephesians 2:10, " We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

I could use some chiseling. How about you?

Anthony