

Pk's Perspectives ... Captain America

Let me state this from the get-go: I'm a fan of the Captain America movie series that debuted in 2011. I really like the fresh take on the Marvel Comic Book character that has been around since 1941. In the 2011 movie, Captain America is the quintessential good guy who squares off against the maniacal bad guy character known as Red Skull. Captain America wins (but he doesn't get the girl)! I love movies in which the good guy wins.

What's really cool is that *Captain America: The First Avenger* is on television. A lot. Between FX, TNT, USA, SyFy & TBS, a person could easily view this movie 10 or 50 times a year. And Captain America prevails every single time.

I was watching the movie the other night and I got to thinking about the part of the storyline dealing with how Captain America and Red Skull came into existence. They both received an experimental infusion of chemicals known as the Super Soldier Serum - a serum that greatly enhances musculature, reflexes, and stamina. While enhancing the important physical aspects of a soldier, the serum also heightens the inner character of the individual. Captain America morphed into the ultimate good guy soldier because goodness was at the core of his heart; Red Skull morphed into a wicked maniac because evil was at the core of his heart. The two movie characters possess very similar physical capabilities but the direction of their movie lives is vastly different because of the influence of the heart.

Captain America and Red Skull are fictional characters. I know this, just in case you're getting worried that I'm blurring the lines between reality and fantasy! But while I was most recently watching the Captain America movie, I found myself thinking about this proposition: what would become obvious in my life if indeed there was a way to prominently enhance the attributes residing in the deepest places of my heart? What if the unseen things in my heart were not only revealed but also magnified greatly for the whole world to witness?

Jesus often spoke about the heart and its contents. He says that what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart; he says that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies and blasphemies come from the heart. The Bible also reveals that the pure in heart are blessed and "to the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted." Again, Jesus says that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Here's my take: despite a person's best efforts at camouflage, it will eventually be seen that the outward life of the person matches the inside of the person's heart.

So what do people see when they examine your life? The Bible tells us that sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, and orgies are clear signs of a heart with evil at its core. Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will be clearly seen in the life of a person who has surrendered their heart to Jesus. The fruit your life displays is the most accurate indicator of what's simmering in the deep places of your heart. Captain America is a good comic book character; Jesus is the genuine hero. I want to be like Jesus when I grow up...cya in Sunday School & Worship, Pk.