

Pk's Perspectives ... I Wish I Could

A pastor can't make decisions for his flock. We pastor people spend much of our existence in the frustrating/perplexing sphere of pointing the way to Truth but without the authority to make a person yield to God's truth. Yep – that's a pastor's take on the whole "you can lead a horse to water" adage.

Even though it's not in my job description, I want to share some choices that I wish I could make for you (which I can't) in the hope that maybe you'll consider these and choose them yourself.

First thing: don't attempt to argue, debate, decry, or defend any issue of substance/importance/complexity in the comment threads of Facebook. Second First thing: don't attempt to argue, debate, decry, or defend any issue of substance/importance/complexity on the texting screen of your phone. Human communication is so much more than mere words. Facial expression, body language, tonal inflection, emotional conveyance – none of these can be adequately expressed in the sterile world of cyber discourse. I know what you're thinking and the answer is, "NO!" Emoji's are not adequate substitutes for expressing human emotions on complex issues. When it concerns hashing out really significant stuff, face-to-face is always the best choice and if I could, I would choose for you to have your important conversations in the realm of flesh and blood rather than the arena of cyber interaction.

Second thing: build authentic relationships and share life with people that exist outside of your comfort zone; have meaningful conversations with people who were raised different than you, reflect a different culture than yours, and have different opinions than the opinions you hold. During these conversations, don't listen to respond...listen to learn. Paul talks in Scripture about "becoming all things to all people" which is a Greek idiom for coming up alongside someone and walking their path with them. It's nigh to impossible to be salt & light in the big world when your faith rarely escapes the cozy confines of a religious cocoon. If I could make the choice, I would choose for you some relationships that challenge you to examine the foundations of your personal beliefs/opinions while broadening your grasp of how to live out unconditional love, mercy, and grace.

Third thing: church participation is not an acceptable substitute for intimate relationship with Jesus. In fact, being active in church is much more benign than the journey of transformation that ensues when we passionately pursue relationship with Jesus. Pay attention: consistently engaging life with the Body of Christ is most definitely an essential by-product of walking with Jesus but it is not the essence of following Jesus. Your faith journey is defined and shaped by the content and depth of the private, personal time you spend with Jesus. If I could make the choice, I would choose for you a daily time of at least 30 minutes to curl up in the arms of your Father so that you might be drenched in the awesome reality of His love for you and saturated in the peace and purpose of His holy wisdom.

Okay, then...Labor Day is behind us and the eventful days of autumn are beckoning us forward. Busy school days, football weekends, fall leaves to view, Perry Fair food waiting to be consumed...you can't do it all. Live your life with purpose and intention; make choices that enrich your life. Cya Sunday, PK.