

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- February 6, 2014

“A Case for Courtesy”

This has been quite a week...in one night we had nearly six inches of snow. The very next day, I left home to go to the hospital and nursing home. While I was taking my time driving carefully over the icy roads, I was amazed how many drivers zipped past giving caution to the wind. Courtesy was not the order of the day for many.

Does courtesy matter? Yes, it certainly does. 1 Corinthians 13 tells how “true love” is courteous. “Courtesy” is the lubricant that eases friction arising from differences among one another. It prevents differences from sparking strife. It is the single ingredient that is accepted without question in every land, every home, and in every heart in the world. It is an enchantment that brings out the best in everyone. To be courteous is to demonstrate in Life and Lifestyle, the wonderful Grace of God.

As a boy, Desmond Tutu saw how blacks were treated under South Africa's apartheid system. One day, while walking down the street with his mother, a white Anglican priest stepped aside in a differential manner and tipped his hat to his mother. Tutu was surprised. He asked his mother: “Why was that white man so nice to you?” “That man is a minister of the Gospel,” his mother answered. “People like that are courteous to everyone.”

Tutu promised himself then and there that he too would become a minister of the gospel. He went on to become an Anglican Bishop, a human rights activist and a Nobel Prize winner.

The Bible says: “Remind them (God's people) to . . . speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show courtesy to everyone” (Titus 3:1, 2).

- So let's be courteous within our Families. Do not take each other for granted.
- Be an example of Courtesy to your children, by teaching and modeling it!
- Be courteous in your Work Place. Smile. Say “hello.” Learn your co-workers names. Even if you forget a name, don't let that stop you from being friendly.
- Be courteous on the Road. “Road Rage” has made headlines as people take out their anger and frustration on others with whom they share the streets and highways. The Bible says: “Those who are slow to anger calm contentions” (Proverbs 15:18).
- Be courteous to Strangers, the Elderly and those who are Handicapped. You are “God's Example of Courtesy” to a rude and selfish world.
- Being courteous is to be like Christ.

Have a Blessed Week! See you in church Sunday!

Pastor Sewdin