

Melva's Corner



Are You A World-Changer

November 5, 2007

Central Truth: When you know you are loved by God, feel secure in His acceptance and experience the peace that comes with that relationship, you begin to understand how to relate to other people.

The world needs lots of positive change. Do you agree?

There needs to be less violence in the world. There are too many angry people on the road and in our workplaces. There are too many abusive words spoken in homes. And there are too many people who never get spoken to except to be criticized, put down, or made fun of. Things don't have to be that way. You and I can change this hateful pattern and drain off some of that savage anger.

The world needs more joy. It doesn't take any great effort to acknowledge people on the sidewalk, in elevators, or at restaurants. Why, it is even possible to smile at clerks and customers. There's something almost magical when clerk and customer smile simultaneously and speak pleasantly. It starts with a simple, natural smile directed at another human being.

We certainly need increased kindness to each other too. Every time you cross paths with another human being, you have the opportunity to see and affirm the image of God. You can build that person up or tear them down. If you do the former, you are honoring God and affirming human dignity; if you do the latter, you are not so much insulting that person but the God in whose likeness they were created. So racism, sexism and the other hateful "-isms" of the world are totally out of place.

When you know you are loved by God, feel secure in His acceptance and experience the peace that comes of that relationship, you begin to understand how to relate to other people. You love your children on the model of God's own love for you. You build the key relationships of your life on acceptance rather than skepticism. That is, you assign worth to persons as persons and refuse to make others feel they must earn your love by measuring up.

All of a sudden, you can learn from your mistakes rather than be crushed under their weight. You can hold others accountable and still treat them with respect and affirm their worth. You will even develop the ability to distinguish a cold from cancer – treating only the really serious things seriously and otherwise letting some things slide that don't deserve to be blown out of proportion.

If the vicious spirit of harsh judgment invades your world today, be sure it gets there through someone other than you. Be an encourager!

Summing up, I suppose it all translates into Jesus' call for us to love one another. Maybe that's why less rage and more smiles, fewer incivilities and more kindnesses don't sound like such novel ideas. But, hey, the notion here isn't novelty but need, not originality but urgency. Don't you think these little things would make the world a better place for all of us?

"But it's too simplistic!" somebody protests. Are you sure? The world gets changed not only by the mighty exploits of its occasional superstar heroes but also by the cumulative little deeds of each soul who aspires to a holy thing.

Don't wait for someone else to take the initiative in your workplace, at home, or in your church. No leader needs to give you permission. Just do these right, positive, and wholesome things yourself. If you must, do them alone. Go person to person with them and God will make you into a world-changer.

Pray to be the change you'd like to see in the world.

Scriptural References:



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for
this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"
(I Thessalonians 5:16-18)