



New Beginnings, Volume 28, 2008
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Luke 6:31

“Do for others as you would like them to do for you.”

We live in a culture today that seems to be less and less caring about the needs of others each day. I fear that we are becoming more and more self-centered. We are becoming more and more focused on our wants and desires and less concerned about the “health” of the community we live in.

I think there are many reasons for this phenomenon. I can't help but believe one of the most significant factors is the increasing secularization of our culture. As the church has been driven out of the public square by judicial fiat we have become a more violent and less compassionate place to live. The removal of religious symbols, prayers, and teachings have left the public increasingly more influenced by the law of man, the values of a broken humanity, and the unholy passions and lust of people who no longer are being guided by the moral values of the church or God's word. This is true in our government, our schools, and now, more and more, in our homes.

Not only has the increased secularization of our culture contributed to this change, there has been a unsettling yet subtle change in attitudes in our culture. We have become increasingly more consumer driven as witnessed by the incredible increase in debt in our nation. Not only has credit card debt skyrocketed, the consumer debt relative to homes, automobiles and “toys” has grown completely out of proportion. We seem as a culture driven to have more and more in the way of “things”.

What this has done has diminished the attention paid to relationships. Thus we have become less and less mindful of others as we strive to pay for the insatiable appetite we have for accumulation. For far too many people, it's no longer about what they need it's about what they want. This stress has created an often hostile environment for people to live in.

The words of Luke 6:31 take us back to a kinder, gentler time in America. There was a time when the church, (faith communities) were the center of peoples lives and relationships. It was in the church we learned moral values that helped us to live more compassionately in our relationships with others. The church was not only a place to learn to love and worship God, it was a place to build life long friendships. Today churches are often little more than religious watering holes or entertainment centers. The true love that Jesus called us to share for one another has been replaced by superficial relationship. The passion to reach out to the hurting in our communities as well as the world has faded away as our expectations of what we “deserve” in the way of materialistic things has grown.

It is not too late to begin again and recapture the passion for Christ and the compassion for others. Let us unite as one faith, one body, and one family to claim once again God's promises.