

*“What shall we say then?”* – Romans 6:1d (NIV)

It is summer – I think my creativity has decided it needs a summer off! Or, I just am still in vacation mode! But, as I write this nothing seems to “gel”. My thoughts meander like the butterflies on a warm summer day – they go from here to there – not with any speed – so...some random thoughts.

Why can't we let God be God? Are some giving God bad press? One of the great freeing moments in my ministry was when I came to the discovery that I am not God. God is able to handle the world – all I need to do is to love as God has called me to love and serve you and others with that love. No, we do not agree on everything (how could God create country music!) – we will interpret Scripture differently – but we are One in Christ. Let us love one another and let God take care of the rest. After all, church membership does not guarantee a space in heaven – it is our love for Christ and what he accomplished for us – So, I am willing to let God to be God. Are you?

Why can't we separate civil law from religious law? Did Jesus call us to legislate our morality on others? I don't see it that way – but I think many do. We may think we have moved away from the Crusades and Inquisition but maybe we have only changed our strategy. Rather than by force we want to do it by Law. For me, Jesus was not critical of Rome and its laws but of the religious leaders of his people and their sometimes outlandish interpretation of the Scriptures. We continue to confuse civil and religious law – when will we learn the difference?

When will we admit that there are some “grey” areas in the Bible? A simple post of Facebook asked what is marriage in the Bible? Or what is family? You don't have to read far in it to discover some interesting families: When Sarah could not conceive she gave Abraham her maidservant; Elkanah, Hannah's husband and Samuel's father had two wives. Jacob married Leah and Rachel and then both of them gave him their maidservant and he had children with them; and what of David and Solomon??? What is the norm? We can pick and choose and find what we want to find – which moves me back to my first thought: Why can't we let God be God?

Why are some people more willing to believe a lie than the truth? A friend went on a rant on their blog about a Canadian Law they saw coming to the United States. They thought they had their information correct. Soon the “blog” filled with Canadian posts about how wrong the person was. This was not what was happening in Canada – they admonished the writer to get their facts straight before posting something. But, it was what the writer wanted to believe and they found a place on the web that agreed and so it must be true and they had to repost it. Even “news” organization get things wrong – should we not use the brain material God has given us?

Why do atheists care if I pray? I mean they say there is no God, so if there is no God I am only wasting my time (not theirs). Are they concerned that they may be wrong and that there is a God and God is listening to what I am saying and God will react to it? And, if it is okay to post sayings from historical figures and literature why not the Bible? Do those from the Bible have more power? If it is just a book then what is the problem. And, don't you have more important things to do? Take you children fishing, to a ballgame. Spend some time with your spouse. Enjoy life — there is more to it than fighting over what said on a monument or posted on a wall (oh, the same goes for Christians!).

What is good for you may not be good for me. Or, Why do we try to put everything in one basket? I have a colleague who loves Snickers bars. He has at least one a day and some days two. They don't seem to have any affect on him health wise – his blood sugar is great. His blood pressure is fine. Now, my body would not tolerate two Snicker's a day. My doctor has warned me that I am “of that age” when... But, that does not mean that he should stop eating his Snicker's bars. Nor that I should take them up. I am a morning person, I loved 8 a.m. classes in college and Seminary – others work better in the afternoon or evening – that is fine. Don't try to put us all in one basket. Which goes back to my first comment: Why can't we let God be God? God may lead me here and you there – okay – at least we are following God! Jesus does say something about that but it is summer...