

February 15, 2015

Insight...

***"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.***

***By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
John 13:34-35***

- ♥ **A friend who worked as an astronomer**...approached her husband's pastor at a party. "Pastor," the astronomer asked with a small, but discernable amount of professional smugness, "wouldn't you agree that all of Christian theology could be summed up in this simple song, 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so'?" "Perhaps," the pastor replied, "if you would agree that all of astronomy can be summed up in this song, 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star, how I wonder what you are!'"

- ♥ **Some timeless principles that enhance intimacy**...the art of "drawing close."
 - *Secrecy is an enemy of intimacy.* It violates principles of honesty.
 - *Don't try to impress people; love them.*
 - *Don't pretend to be someone you're not.* Become like Jesus.
 - *Don't prioritize pursuits or possessions over people.* Note: the Great Commandment and next one that is "like it."
 - *Bring out the best in others – don't try to change them.* Notice what God has done in them and don't try to usurp His role as the sanctifier.
 - *Healthy relationships demand healthy people.* Dysfunctional personalities breed dysfunctional relationships. If you're ill – strive toward wellness.
 - *Swallow your pride.* Pride is the soil from whence most dysfunctional behaviors grow. Ancient wisdom: Pride goeth before the fall."
 - *Forgiveness must be given but trust must be earned.*
 - *Don't expect another person to "complete you."* God never intended to complete you with anyone but Himself.
 - *Love is a commitment, not a tickle feeling.* It is a commitment to give up self...a commitment to consider soberly and in the fear of God.

This list was inspired by Dave Willis of strongermarriages.org and reworked for the INSIGHT.

- ♥ **American political leadership today is** – point blank – about leveraging chronic anxiety for the sake of gaining power." Tim Shuttle (pastor, author)

♥ **Christians refuse to live out of anxiety because we are a people of hope.**

Fostering fear and anxiety in order to gain political power represents a cynicism which is simply not worthy of the Christian. When Christians decide to speak into the political arena, our voice must have the sound of hope, and our tone the tenor of peace, neither of which can materialize if we are trapped in the cycle of anxiety. Tim Shuttle - <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/paperbacktheology/2014/11/public-jesus-beyond-the-politics-of-anxiety.html#ixzz3RkElAy8F>

♥ **Trivia Question:** Who receives the most Valentine's Day cards?

A. Girlfriends B. Wives C. Mothers D. Teachers

B.

♥ **For Prayer...**

...Mike (Linde's father) – passed away yesterday. His funeral is scheduled for February 20 at WHBC.

...Darla – Please pray for Michael as he serves on a short term mission team in Uganda until 2/29 – safety and health.

...LaVern as she mourns Daryl's home going.

...Steve is making slow progress. Doctors will not let him coach. Still in pain but getting better. He will be returning to work this week on limited duties.

...VBS Committee reforming – we pray for eager and gifted servants.

...Space Planning & Church growth...clarity of leading, meeting w/sub-committee canceled, rescheduled on Tuesday pm at 5.

...Quarterly Church Business Meeting next Sunday evening, 2/22.

...Sale of Homes.

...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.

Jeff & Laurie

Christy (Mike)

Renee (Dick)

Norm & Peg

Cheryl (Deane)

...Our Expectant Mothers

Sarah (Kelly)

Daisy (Aaron)

Christine (Ben)

Sarah (Beaner)

Paige (Matt)

Terra (Ronnie)

Chante (Brent)

Kristin (Shawn)

Diana (Steven)

...and so, we will print it again.

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket — safe, dark, motionless, airless — it will change.

It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredemable.

C. S. Lewis

Trivia Answer: D. Teachers