



Does Peter Pan Have Your Marbles?

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

The mid-term elections are finally over. Halleluiaah! We can, hopefully, get back to enjoying television, radio, social media, and whatnot without being accosted by ads for politicians. However, even though the elections are over, there is still a division in our country that isn't just going to go away. It's going to take a great deal to heal the chasm that has developed into a war on decency.

This healing has to start with each of us doing our part. The first part, as being outlined in 1 Timothy above, is to “*pray for all that are in authority*”. This is something we can all do. It doesn't have to be an eloquent prayer, just a few words asking the Lord to lead and guide those in leadership roles. From the president to the local town mayor, all are in need of the light that only comes from the Lord.

Next, we have to remember who is in charge of who is in charge. Yes, we have the right to vote. But who guides our minds in our electoral choices? Those who are elected are created by God, just as we are and are bound to Him, just as we are. Regardless of political affiliation, personal beliefs or popular opinion, “*all were created by him for him*”.

*For by **him** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by **him**, and for **him**: Colossians 1:16*

Those first two things are rather basic. Here's the kicker... we are to love everyone with the love of Christ. This is something that seems to have become lost in this world. Tolerance has gone out the window. Acceptance has vanished. Judgement has taken over. Common sense isn't even part of our collective character any more. In the movie “Hook”, Tootles has lost his marbles and Peter Pan recovers them. Have we all lost ours as well? I don't think Peter Pan can help us. We need to help ourselves! Sometimes when I see this blatant disregard for our fellow human beings, I just want to scream “STOP IT! JUST STOP IT”

Oh, believe me, I am not the perfect loving Christian at times. I lose my patients with people, get abrupt with my words, even downright nasty sometimes. But, Geesh people, I've not mailed a bomb to someone I disagreed with. The recent slaughter of Jews in Pittsburgh just breaks my heart. The loss of human life just because of differing beliefs is part of what should be our past. Something to read about in history books, not in the morning news.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:43-48

There are millions of people in the world who do love the Lord and are doing their best to love others. But there needs to be more of us. More of us who vocalize that love. You don't have to join some "movement" or organization, it just takes a kind word, a card or letter, a prayer, a hug, saying "I disagree, but I love you anyway.". No, we can't stop the radicals. But, by George, we can show that the other side still exists!

One way we can do this is by simply ignoring the "hype". Don't get your "panties in a bunch" from watching a news report or seeing a social media posting if it's laced with bias and bigotry. Especially if it goes against your grain. Every second that you spend on the negative are seconds that could have been used for the positive. It's a waste of energy. So, what if someone posted something on Facebook. Scroll past it. Why stop and write your opposing view? Find something uplifting and post it instead. (Just an example.)

Personally, I am an Eagles fan. Some of you aren't. (My husband isn't.) That's OK. I can watch your team play and admit that they may be better. I can admire a great quarterback when I see one. (I won't spit on you if you're a Cowboys fan, honest.) But, then even football has become "politicized" and people have become divided over the whole kneeling thing. In the grand scheme of things, what does it matter? It doesn't!

Here is where our concerns should lie... Salvation for all. Sharing the word of God. Loving our neighbors as ourselves. Faith. Hope. Charity.

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

Faith in the one who oversees who is in charge
Hope in our own future and the eternal life we will receive through salvation
Charity for ALL people regardless of our personal differences

Please take a moment to pray for our leaders. Reach "across the aisle", as they say, to someone who differs. Share the story of salvation and eternal life with someone in need. Plant the seeds of love, hope and charity throughout. You just never know what may grow!

Praying you find your marbles. ☺



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P.S. No, "political correctness" is not part of my writing style.