

YOU NEVER KNOW...

There are many things in this life that we will never really know. Aside from all the questions we might like to ask Jesus or Paul about spiritual things, and aside from all those nagging little things we might wonder like, “Why don’t they put handles on mattresses?” and “Why do you drive on parkways and park on driveways?”, there are some very important things to consider, even though we don’t always know the answers.

For example, you never know what influence you will have on the people around you. Indeed, Jesus tells us that we are the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14-16), but we don’t always see how we affect people. On the other hand, we don’t always know when we negatively affect someone either. We have to be careful what we say and how we act for we just don’t know who is watching. Along the same lines, we need to stop and help people (a la the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37) because you never know whether or not that little bit of kindness will bear fruit and possibly lead someone to Christ. Act right and it won’t matter.

You never know what people are thinking, so don’t get worked up over it. Try hard not to assign motives to people. If someone says something that hurts you, chalk it up to immaturity rather than to spite. If someone forgets to thank you or appreciate you in some way, maybe they just forgot and are not trying to deliberately snub you. Be careful when confronting others with their sins, maybe they made a mistake and really are not trying to be rebellious. When others confront you with your sins, do not assume that they are glad or enjoying themselves, most of the time they dread it and would rather be doing anything else. The point here is, be careful! Paul tells us that love “thinks no evil” (1 Corinthians 13:5), so watch making snap judgments about things you don’t really understand.

You also never know when you will die. Oh yes, we have all heard this many times from preachers and elders and our parents, but it really is true. Diseases, accidents, or time will catch up to us all. Death is truly “the debt that every man pays”! So, you must be prepared. Make a will, purchase some life insurance, and keep your passwords where your loved one can get them if the need arises. More importantly of course, make sure that your spiritual house is in order. In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus tells His disciples that they will not know when the end of the ages comes. He also tells us in several parables to be ready for judgment, for it will come “like a thief in the night”. Are you prepared? If you died today would you be justified by God? Also, because you don’t know, there is no reason to obsess over it. Live your life and enjoy it, but be ready for it to end.

You never know, do you? Let us all just live right and not worry about these and the many other things that we do not know. God has promised us forgiveness and salvation. That is what we should be concerned with. Let us leave the other stuff alone and get on with our service to God.

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