



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

IN THE YOUTH GROUP THIS SCHOOL YEAR WE ARE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT "TOUGH QUESTIONS". THERE ARE MANY TOPICS THAT ARE EXCEPTIONALLY, AND UNFORTUNATELY, RELEVANT TO TEENS IN TODAY. SOCIAL MEDIA HAS GIVEN A VOICE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS ONE, AND IT HAS ALLOWED ANYONE TO BE EASILY TOSSED BY THE WIND AND WAVES OF MAN'S EMPTY PHILOSOPHIES (EPH 4:14). FOR THIS REASON, SADLY, THERE ARE TOPICS THAT WERE NOT EVEN SHARED 10 YEARS AGO THAT WE NEED TO GET AHEAD OF EARLY IN OUR TEENS LIVES TODAY.

WITH THAT SAID, ONE OF THE WAYS I AM APPROACHING THIS, IS WITH SILLY TOPICS FOR "ICE-BREAKERS". OUR FIRST ONE, I WANTED TO TRY AND ANSWER THE TOUGH QUESTION OF, "WHAT IS THE BEST LITTLE DEBBIE?"

WE AS A GROUP, SAT DOWN AND DISCUSSED WHAT WE THOUGHT THE TOP 5 LITTLE DEBBIE CAKES THERE WERE. I TOLD THEM I WOULD GO OUT AND BUY THOSE FIVE CAKES, AND THEN WE WOULD SIT DOWN AND DECIDE WHICH IS THE BEST. SOUNDS SIMPLE RIGHT?

YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED HOW MANY DIFFERENT WAYS WE COULD SPIN WHICH LITTLE DEBBIE WAS THE BEST WITH ONLY FIVE TO CHOOSE FROM. THE PROBLEMS ARE:

- WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT TASTE LIKES AND DISLIKES.
- WE ALL HAVE PRECONCEIVED IDEAS OF WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO TASTE LIKE THAT INFLUENCE OUR DECISION MAKING.
- WE ALL HAVE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WE LIKE AND HAVE ALREADY DECIDED WHAT IS OUR FAVORITE AND NOT NECESSARILY THE BEST.
- WHICH THEN, WE HAVE ALREADY DECIDED WHAT WE LIKE AND HAVE A HARD TIME CHOOSING WHAT IS RIGHT

AS SILLY AS THIS SOUNDS WITH LITTLE DEBBIE'S, THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD POPULATION DOES WITH ALL THE INFORMATION THAT IS BEING GIVEN TO US ON A DAILY BASIS. MOST OF WORLD HAS A HARD TIME SEEING NEW INFORMATION AND UPLOADING IT WITHOUT ANY BIAS.

WHAT BECOMES DIFFICULT IN THE CHURCH, IS WHEN WE START TO DO IT AS WELL. I AM AFRAID THERE ARE MANY TRUTHS THAT WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE OUT OF OUR OWN EMOTIONAL BIAS – BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A COMFORT TO US IF IT WERE DONE A DIFFERENT WAY. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT OUR HEARTS ARE DECEITFUL AND DESPERATELY WICKED (JEREMIAH 17:9-10) AND SATAN IS EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD AT USING OUR OWN THOUGHTS TO DECEIVE US.

OUR FOCUS SHOULD CONTINUALLY BE ON THE FACT THAT GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS (ISAIAH 55:8-9) AND WHEN PRESENTED WITH NEW INFORMATION, EVEN IN READING SCRIPTURE THAT YOU HAVE READ 100 TIMES BEFORE, WE SHOULD DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT GOD TRUTH GOD WANTS US TO GLEAN FROM HIS AUTHORITATIVE WORD.

THERE ARE TIMES WE TEND TO KICK AGAINST THE GOADS OF HIS WORD, WHEN TRULY UNDERSTANDING AND FOLLOWING HIS WORD IS AN UNCONTAINABLE PLEASURE. I PRAY OUR WITNESS TO HIS GLORY IS SOLELY BASED ON HIS WORD AND NOT OURS.

PASTOR ANDY

FYI, THE CORRECT ORDER IS 1) ZEBRA CAKES, 2) OATMEAL CREAM PIES, 3) FUDGE ROUNDS, 4) SWISS ROLLS, & 5) CUPCAKES