



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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I PRAY IT'S ALL OF US

PASTOR ANDY

IS IT JUST ME OR DOES EVERYONE ELSE, FROM TIME TO TIME:

CRITIQUE EVERYBODY ELSE'S DRIVING BUT YOUR OWN

CHECK FOR MONSTERS BEHIND THE SHOWER CURTAIN

PRACTICE CONVERSATIONS IN THE MIRROR

TRY TO PLAY IT COOL WHEN YOU TRIP ON THE SIDEWALK, SLIP ON THE ICE, WALK THE WRONG WAY, OR GET OFF THE ELEVATOR ON THE WRONG FLOOR

PRETEND YOUR MICROWAVE IS A BOMB AND YOU HAVE TO DEFUSE IT BEFORE IT GOES OFF

HAVE A NEED TO TOUCH: CLOTHES IN THE STORE, SAND ON THE BEACH, FLOWERS (AS WELL AS FAKE PLANTS TO KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST SEEING THINGS), TALL BROWN GRASS IN A FIELD, MARSHMALLOWS, EVERYTHING BEHIND SIGNS THAT READ – "PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH", WET PAINT ON THE WALL, ICING ON A CAKE, WATER IN A FOUNTAIN, BUBBLES, SOMEONE'S SHAVED HEAD.

NOW THOSE MAY BE A LITTLE HUMOROUS, BUT I THINK AS HUMANS, AS AMERICANS, AS REGULARS OF INDIANAPOLIS WE SHARE MANY OF THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES AND SITUATIONS. WE CHEER FOR THE SAME TEAMS, EAT AT THE SAME RESTAURANTS, SHOP AT THE SAME STORES, READ THE SAME MAGAZINES, WATCH THE SAME SHOWS, AND CELEBRATE THE SAME HOLIDAYS.

BUT I WONDER, HOW WOULD WE DO AS A CHURCH FAMILY? HOW MANY SIMILARITIES DO WE HAVE?

HOW MANY HAVE A "DEEP" PASSION TO KNOW THE WORD OF GOD – NOT JUST KNOWING FACTS, BUT LIVING THEM.

HOW MANY DESIRE TO SERVE WITH ALL THEY HAVE – TO GIVE MORE TO THE CHURCH THAN TO SELF

HOW MANY WITNESS WITH BOLDNESS – KNOWING IT IS INTIMIDATING BUT UNDERSTANDING THAT PEOPLE ARE HEADING FOR HELL

HOW MANY MISS THEIR CHURCH FAMILY WHEN THEY'RE AWAY – THERE IS A TIME TO BE WITH THE LOST BUT YOU HAVE A NEED TO BE WHERE BELIEVERS ARE

PHILIPPIANS 2: 1-4 SAYS - THEREFORE IF THERE IS ANY ENCOURAGEMENT IN CHRIST, IF THERE IS ANY CONSOLATION OF LOVE, IF THERE IS ANY FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT, IF ANY AFFECTION AND COMPASSION, ² MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE BY BEING OF THE SAME MIND, MAINTAINING THE SAME LOVE, UNITED IN SPIRIT, INTENT ON ONE PURPOSE. ³ DO NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT, BUT WITH HUMILITY OF MIND REGARD ONE ANOTHER AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES; ⁴ DO NOT MERELY LOOK OUT FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS.

THERE ARE TWO KEY PHRASES I WILL TAKE AWAY FROM THIS PASSAGE TODAY:

IF THERE IS ANY FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT. THIS FELLOWSHIP DESCRIBES A MUTUAL SHARING. A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING – A MUTUAL PURPOSE. AND IF WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE CHRIST-LIKE. .TO RENEW OUR MIND (ROMANS 12:2) THEN WE SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE CHRIST; A BODY OF BELIEVERS WHO CARE FOR EVANGELIZING THE LOST AND EQUIPPING THE SAINTS AS MUCH AS THEY DO FOR THEMSELVES.

MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE BY BEING OF THE SAME MIND. WHAT PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT HERE (AND 9 OTHER TIMES IN PHILIPPIANS) IS NOT JUST HAVING THE SAME DOCTRINAL STANDARDS BUT LIVING THOSE STANDARDS OUT IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY – TOGETHER! THROUGH GOD'S WORD AND THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BELIEVERS (A WHOLE BODY OF BELIEVER'S) CAN KNOW THE VERY MIND OF CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 2:16).