



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 26, 2015

WHAT I NOTICED

A LITTLE WHILE BACK I WAS AT THE GYM AND I NOTICED A FEW DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE – ONLY A FEW BECAUSE AT THE GYM, THE LIST OF TYPES OF PEOPLE CAN GET LENGTHY.

- 1) **BIG GUY LOOKING SMALL** – THERE WAS A GENTLEMAN THERE THAT WAS CLOSE TO 6 FEET 3 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 280 POUNDS. WHAT I NOTICED ABOUT HIM WAS NOT SO MUCH HIS HEIGHT OR WEIGHT BUT WHAT HE WAS WEARING AND HOW HE WAS STANDING. HE HAD ON A “SKIN-TIGHT” SHIRT (WHICH, BY THE WAY, SHOULD ONLY BE WORN BY SUPERMAN, BATMAN, OR CAPTAIN AMERICA) AND WHEN HE WOULD STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR HE WOULD SUCK IN HIS STOMACH TO MAKE HIMSELF LOOK SKINNY.
- 2) **LITTLE GUY WANTING TO BE ACCEPTED** – THERE WAS ANOTHER GENTLEMAN THAT WAS ABOUT 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHED ABOUT 130 POUNDS SOAKING WET. HE WAS NOT VERY BIG AT ALL, BUT WHAT I NOTICED ABOUT HIM WAS WHEN HE WALKED AROUND HE WOULD LIFT UP HIS SHOULDERS, PUFF OUT HIS CHEST, AND BEND HIS ARMS JUST RIGHT SO THEY WERE ALWAYS FLEXING. IT GAVE THE “APPEARANCE” THAT HE WAS JUST AS BIG AS THE OTHER GUYS THERE – BUT HE WASN’T.
- 3) **WE NEED TO BE NOTICED TOO GUYS** – THERE WAS ONE MORE GENTLEMAN WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO BENCH-PRESS 505 POUNDS (WHICH BY THE WAY, IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WEIGHT). HE HAD ABOUT 5-6 OTHER GUYS STANDING AROUND HIM YELLING AND CHEERING. WHAT I NOTICED WAS WHEN THIS MAN LIFTED THE WEIGHT (WHICH WAS IMPRESSIVE) HE PUT THE WEIGHT DOWN AND JUST SAT ON THE BENCH – MEANWHILE, THE OTHER GUYS KEPT ON YELLING, FLEXING THEIR OWN “SO-CALLED” MUSCLES, AND WALKING AROUND THE GYM WANTING OTHERS TO LOOK AT THEM.

I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE AT THE GYM: MEN, WOMEN, TALL, SHORT, STRONG, WEAK, SECURE, TIMID, ETC...BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME IS THAT I THINK CHRISTIANS CAN BE THE SAME WAY.

FOR OUR WINTER RETREAT COMING UP IN FEBRUARY OUR THEME IS FROM PSALM 139:14 AND THE PSALMIST WRITES, “. . .I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE”. THE WRITER KNOWS EXACTLY WHO HE IS BEFORE HIS CREATOR AND IS OK WITH IT. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT WHOEVER WE ARE, WHEREVER WE ARE, AND WHATEVER WE ARE DOING, IT IS EXACTLY HOW GOD WANTS IT TO BE.

COUPLED WITH THAT THOUGHT, CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE CHRIST-LIKE. ROMANS 8:29 SAYS, “FOR THOSE WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO *BECOME* CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, SO THAT HE WOULD BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN”.

THE PEOPLE AT THE GYM WERE “TRYING” TO BE LIKE SOMEONE ELSE: BIGGER, SMALLER, STRONGER, ETC. .BUT ULTIMATELY THEY ARE NOT. WE ARE NOT CALLED TO MERELY ACT LIKE CHRIST. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BE CONFORMED TO HIS IMAGE. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE WORD CONFORMED MEANS TO BE IN HARMONY; TO BE IN AGREEMENT OR TO BE SYNCHRONIZED. TRYING AND DOING ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS.

WE DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WE DO NOT HAVE TO ACT LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WE DO NOT NEED TO BE LIKE ANYONE ELSE. WE HAVE TO BE IN HARMONY WITH OUR SAVIOR, AND HE TAKES ALL SHAPES, SIZES, AND ABILITIES.

WHAT I HAVE NOTICED IS THAT A CHURCH WITH ALL SHAPES, SIZES, AND ABILITIES IN HARMONY WITH GOD CAN DO WONDERFUL AND AMAZING THINGS. MAY WE BE THAT CHURCH.

PASTOR ANDY