

March 3, 2008

## **TURN A CORNER!**

There is a simplicity which God wants to give you, Christian, which isn't naïveté. It isn't "ignorance [which] is bliss." It isn't the simplicity of a child who doesn't know enough to be burdened with life's problems, or the simplicity of the mentally retarded.

It's the simplicity of maturity in God. Get through the adolescence of worry, fretting, over-busyness, over-selfconsciousness, over-concern with Satan's opposition. Don't spend your life as one more case of arrested development.

Maturity is getting beyond all that to the long-range view. It's the simplicity of letting God be God.

Said our son Ray, Jr., recently, when we were listening to him preach,

"A strong theology of a strong God is the only theology worthy of Him, and the only realistic theology...."

"Human opposition counts for nothing. God has already factored it into His glory. He will ultimately use it to make His glory more fully visible and more admired than ever."

To seek to police the world's rebellions until they leave us angry, frustrated, and pessimistic is pure pride, assuming a role which only God can handle. Or to bear the world's sufferings until they crush us is also pride, again assuming a role which belongs only to God. Yes, we weep with those who weep, we give to those in need, and we do all He asks of us to lift and to help; Jesus commended the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10).

But mostly in childlike faith we look to Jesus. We understand that spiritual warfare initiated in the heavenlies and that ultimately it's in that arena where God Himself will triumph.

Then is practicing the presence of God escapism? No, it's the maturity of one love, one goal, one unity of life. It's the perspective of the long-range view. It's seeing everything from the vantage point of the purposes of a good God.

"You will keep in perfect peace  
him whose mind is steadfast,  
because he trusts in you" (Isa. 26:3)

If you will discipline your heart to trust Him always, to hope in Him only, to wait for Him alone, you've turned a corner.