

Pastor's Corner

Puppy Love

March 25, 2009

Dear Friend,

Once upon a time, a long time ago in a town far away, all of the young people who lived there wanted a puppy. Children would get together, and look at pictures of puppies. They would carry pictures of the different puppies, and most everyone know exactly just what color of puppy they wanted. Pretty much everyone fell into two groups: Those that owned a puppy and those that wanted a puppy. Now, there were only a few people that were happy without a puppy, but most spent all their time looking for a puppy. They would get on the internet and search the different sites, including puppies.com. As soon as someone got a puppy all the others would crowd around, looking enviously at their puppy and beg them to set them up with one of their puppy friends. Some were downright miserable as they searched for a puppy. They felt there must be something wrong with them, since there were puppies all around and yet they still didn't have a puppy! A few even began to question God. "How can God be a God of love and He doesn't let me have a puppy? Can't He see that I have all this love and affection that only a puppy could enjoy, and yet He still doesn't help me find that perfect puppy? OK, any puppy!" What's up with that?



But there was something going on that a lot of the puppy seekers didn't realize. Many of the children who got puppies were actually unhappy after they got their puppy. A few would rush to get a puppy, and in their hurry to get ownership of the new little furry creature they didn't realize the puppy had some bad habits that he learned or inherited. In fact, several of the puppy adoptions turned out so bad that they wanted to let the puppy go, and yet the puppy would follow them all around and constantly hound them. They now realized they had made a mistake, and now they were miserable. A few would take a cute little puppy home while all their friends were looking on with envious eyes, only to realize that her pedigree was a mix of Pit Bull, Akita, and who knows what, and then they would have a miserable life with the little beast!

But there were a few parents (but only a very few!) who told their children no when they brought a puppy home to check it out. It didn't seem fair. They were always saying no! Some of their children would cry and complain and a few would even go and get a puppy and run away with him, and not talk to their parents again! But a few realized that their parents probably knew a lot about puppies, and so they continued to enjoy all the kittens and lambs and calves and birdies and trees and snow and everything else in the town, and realized that there was more to life than just owning a puppy. Someday they would get a puppy, but in the meantime they would enjoy everything else in life and leave the puppy question up to the parents.

In all of our lives, there's something we really want. Get into nursing school, find a job, buy a house, get that degree, find a spouse. Now that last one is a big one! Many people begin to wonder if God *really* does care. "If He cares, why won't He bring that person into my life that will make me happy?" But when we look at the studies and reports and interview the couples, perhaps He *does* care. He cares too much to allow you to get into a situation where you will be miserable for the rest of our life. Uh, I mean more miserable than you are now! And so He waits, and in the meantime He's working on you and working on that special someone, and asks you to trust in Him that He really does have your happiness and peace in mind! Honestly! He's not delaying to punish you! Check out these verses:

*The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Psalm 34:10
And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19
For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold
from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. Psalm 84:11, 12*

I want to invite you: Trust in the Lord! Leave it in His big hands! Read these verses over when you are tempted to not believe in your Heavenly Father's love, and your faith and trust will grow. And you will be blessed, as it says in the last verse of Psalm 84. The following quote puts it so well:

We all desire immediate and direct answers to our prayers, and are tempted to become discouraged when the answer is delayed or comes in an unlooked-for form. But God is too wise and good to answer our prayers always at just the time and in just the manner we desire. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all our wishes. And because we can trust His wisdom and love, we should not ask Him to concede to our will, but should seek to enter into and accomplish His purpose. Our desires and interests should be lost in His will. *Gospel Workers, page 219.*

Have a trust-filled day; we're praying for you!

Mark