

## Care



Perhaps country artist Travis Tritt's greatest hit is "Here's a Quarter, Call Someone Who Cares." In the song, he was telling off an ex who had hurt him and was wanting to come back. The song does point up though, that care is one of the things the world is in short supply of these days, and God stands ready to supply more than we will ever need.

The "In God We Trust" motto on the quarter is in danger of disappearing due to political correctness and the current culture which has trouble believing in God. And the bullet hole through the center of it shows that strong feelings can knock a hole in something or someone that is good.

When leaders demonstrate that they do not care what others think or how they feel, they become shallow and ineffective. When we do not care about others more than ourselves, as Jesus commands us, our world becomes small, and we become weak.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."~John 13:34-35

God's love finds its feet in care for others. When we care about others, it means we have found that the world is bigger than our own wants or desires, and that we are here to make this world a better place until we get to heaven.

"Pure and undefiled religion," James writes, "is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." This kind of care is what we are born to accomplish, and it shows character and perspective when we take the time and use energy and resources to do this.

Religion, politics, family, business, it's all the same in the effect of care. If we show we care, people will want to be a part of our faith and church. If we show we care, then people will want us to represent them in the political world. If we show we care, our family will grow in

love and fulfillment. If we show we care, our employers or employees will have a better work environment.

Colin Powell, Secretary of State a few years ago, was always a soldier. He said that “leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.

To me the issue of care rises about leadership or followership or just any ship. To show we care will soothe the soul and lift the spirit. To show we care gives rise to tears that only come when someone has done something good for someone else.

Sometimes we make care dependent on how others treat us. With God, the care is always the same. Whether we are the worst sinner or the greatest saint, God loves us all the same and wants us to be a part of his family.

Perhaps we should look at our canine friends for guidance in this area. Dogs for the most part are loyal and full of care for their owners, no matter how well or badly they might be treated. “A dog,” says Robert Benchley, “teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down.”

Fidelity is faithfulness to a person, cause or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support.

Perseverance is steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

And the three times, that’s like counting to ten before we respond in a negative or harmful way! It’s always a good practice. And it doesn’t hurt if we wag our tail while we are doing it!

We have the chance, for the rest of our lives, beginning right now to be a person who cares and shows care for others.

A challenge from Og Mandino, who wrote the book “The Greatest Salesman In the World, goes like this: “Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again.”

God made us and calls and enables and partners with us as we care for one another. As the future unfolds, this is what our world desperately needs.

Perhaps we can ask ourselves, no matter how undeserving or how badly they might have treated us, if the correct response is, “Here’s a quarter, call someone who cares.” The higher way, the better way, the Godly way, is, as Jesus says, to “love one another even as I have loved you.”

It’s a start.