

Dots

In talking with one of our ladies as they were preparing to fold the church bulletins for Sunday, I noticed one of the children's bulletins, and joked to her she should connect the dots on it each week to see if they connected. Then we said that sometimes people can't ever connect the dots. Then, in a further realization, she said some might say, "Dots? What are dots?"

So we begin with the thought that life is really about connecting the dots. There are certain points and priorities that we have to find before we can go on to the next ones. Some people see them, and others may tragically not realize that there are dots at all.

Imagine a triangle with faith at the top, and history and future on the bottom corners. Those are the dots we must fill in. Whether that time is meaningful and fulfilling or confusing and empty depends on how we spend the time and what other dots we find to place in between.

Some look back to history to connect the dots for how they shall live. General George Patton believed that at some point in history that he had been a mammoth hunter in prehistoric times, a soldier of Alexander the Great, Hannibal the great warrior of the 3rd century BC, a Roman legionary under Julius Caesar, and an English knight during the hundred years war. Prominent and world changing dots in history. It is no wonder he became a great general in World War II!

Think of your parents and grandparents. Where did they live? What was their occupation? Did they go to church? What was their ancestry? All of those dots contribute how we may or may not connect important dots in our lifetimes. Lois Wise said that "Grandchildren are the dots that connect the lines from generation to generation." As we grow older, we may be able to see that we were a grandchild, we have grandchildren, and they may have grandchildren as well. It takes three generations for those dots to come into being. And it humbles us to see how important they are.

Think of the dots we can connect. Do you realize that time spent in church is the most important dot? Do we spend time rushing to connect less important dots for

ourselves and our children? Is making money the most important dot for us? Is having fun the most important dot?

Somehow we have become a nation of takers rather than givers. The last generation was an army of joiners, givers, builders, and dreamers. It seems that now many people don't want to commit, they see life as owing them something, and they don't see further than they can spit. There are dots out there way beyond where we see them right now and God is the only one who can help us find them.

Jesus was telling his disciples in his early ministry things that they could not understand until later. Jesus was trying to tell them about Pharisees being blind men leading the blind, and they both fall into a pit and they asked him to explain it. "Are you so dull?" he said. They could not connect the dots. Until later, when they received the Holy Spirit, then they really began to understand.

Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computers, was able to see and connect some important dots. "Again," he says, "you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something - your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life."

So think of the dots around you. There are more than you would have ever have imagined. And think seriously about connecting them. In every day there are dots which can connect for good or bad. Recognize that God has given us a mind to choose and connect the dots which connect our past, present, and future.

The key, after all, dear reader, is to recognize that God has put them there to guide his people, and to give them focus which blesses others. See them. Know what they are. Treasure them. Connect them.

Dots. They are everywhere, and the key to connecting them is in God's word, the Bible. May connecting the dots change your life forever!

See you in church when you connect the most important one.