

Running Around In Circles

Matthew 28:20, “Go” and make... circles?

Last night as I came home from the office, I saw my sons standing out in the driveway in a circle talking with several boys from their high school. These boys have been coming over every Wednesday night for a couple of years for pizza (one night, 192 pieces eaten by 15 teens), fun, and talk. It started in an unusual way but that will be another day's ponder.

I noticed that as they talked between the cars, old and new depending on their family financial fixture, they stood in a circle. Every one of them faced each other, listening intently, laughing constantly, and living momentarily in that circle. As I parked our family financially fixed car, the thought of that soon dispersed circle pervaded my mind and then my heart. Graduation, college, vocation, marriage, family, and location will quickly and surely separate the tightly enjoyable wheel of friendship. They don't know it, neither did I.

In twenty-five years though they will come back to a high school reunion and learn what has happened to their circle. It will be a shock for them to see how far and wide that time-limited wheel is divided. Differing philosophies, beliefs, life-styles, financials, families, and scars will silently amaze them taking them home pensively. How did that happen? How could he...? Why did she...? It will be head-shaking. Each will go back to their lives only to divide more until another reunion again shows the “un-union-ness” of their circle has increased.

We all go through several circles in our lives, some stay and some leave. The hope is that those most dear and delightful will not divide, although that is not always the case, sadly. It is part of our human “beings” to be together and then not. This harsh realization can make us cynical or skeptical of pouring effort and love into a temporal relationship knowing it will not usually last. Unwise.

Christ told His three-year disciples to “Go”. Incumbent in that command is a divided circle. The apostles did not stay together, could not. The Kingdom did not allow it. Jesus told them to leave each other, break their circle and go to the ends of the earth and age, and make new circles. And it was in those circles that God shined. We have a responsibility to run around in both saved and unsaved circles for the Kingdom's sake. Yes, both will both hurt and help, but God determines the circle. Be bold. Enjoy and establish circles. So,

Who's in your circle?