

September 30, 2018

Scott's Thoughts



As we get older, we can have a tendency to get either bitter or just give up. Neither of these traits is healthy. A person who is living a bitter life is in the business of making everyone

around them miserable. Nothing is good enough or fast enough and things seem to be too fast or too slow. Add to that the fact that no one cooks good food any more and their a/c heater is on the fritz. It does not take long for everyone near them to tire of the endless stream of complaints.

The people who just give up don't really drag everyone down but they don't build anyone up either. "What do you want to eat?" "I don't care." "Would you like to go visit Bill, Jane or Martha?" "I don't care." People with both these attitudes are people we love and we want the best for them. Yet, both of these extreme attitudes make it really hard to be around them.

The real question to be answered here is not, "how can I change them?" because we can't do that. They have already made their choice. The question we want to answer for ourselves is how can I avoid each of these extremes in my own life? I'm most defiantly not a trained therapist or counselor but I want to offer some practical suggestions.

We can decide for ourselves that we do not want to have either of these two extreme attitudes. Yes,

that is the first step. Just make that decision. We don't want to be bitter because we know that no matter how hard and unpleasant it is to be around a bitter person, it has to be even harder to live as that person. Giving up can cause us to become very lonely.

There are many avenues we can take to fill the void in our lives so we don't give up or become bitter. Obviously I have chosen God. The reasons I have chosen God are many and I like to talk about them, which I am willing to do with anyone at any time. As much as I enjoy having God in my life, I also like to combine Him with serving the community at large. In every town where Ava and I have lived I have become part of a community service organization. There are groups that go by different names (Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, etc.) but all are seeking to make the community where they live a better place to live and raise a family.

One real key that is expressed in the Bible is the act of giving, giving of yourself to others. Giving of yourself is something that is incredible in its nature. 866, is the number of times the word "give" is used in the ESV translation of the Bible. Sometimes it is used about God giving to man. Sometimes it is used about man giving to God and sometimes it is used for man giving to man. Yes, we can give instead of giving up and we can become a giver to prevent us from becoming bitter. Thanks for listening and let us know if we can help—Scott