

HEARTBEATS – Staying Connected

6/7/2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

ONE AT ONE – Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, June 8 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray to see God. Ask God to help you become more aware of God's presence in the world around us. Ask that the Holy Spirit would help us to see God in everyone we meet. Ask that we might be more grateful for all the ways that God comes to us each day.

If I were God, I would have done it differently. I would have made sure that everyone knew exactly what to believe, and how to act, and who was in, and who was out. Everyone would know exactly how to be saved and what you have to do and what you don't.

But God didn't do it that way.

That's why there are different denominations, and different belief systems even within the same denomination. That's why there are those who will tell you adamantly that this is how it is, when others will tell you that is wrong and that it is this way, and neither of them are telling you what you thought it was. And then there are those things that you think you're supposed to believe or that you're told to believe that aren't even in the Bible. It's all very confusing and it's no wonder there are conflicts and disagreements even among Christians, and we end up looking like we're at war with those whom we are supposed to be loving.

If I were God, I would have done it differently. But God didn't.

Even Jesus had trouble with this. You'd think He would know how God wanted things. But the religious leaders of His day disagreed with Him and saw Him as a threat to the way they had been taught and what they had come to believe. And rather than trying to find the truth, they decided to go to war and get rid of Him and that which contradicted what they believed.

If I were God, I would have done it differently.

God created us with a multitude of difference. Some of us need more rules and guidelines, and some of us need less. Some of us are “how to” people who need to know all the steps, and some of us are just “take-it-as-it-comes” folks. Some of us want lots of control over ourselves and others, and others are just fine with leaving it up to God. Some of us need to feel that we’re better than others, and some of us want to know that everyone is equal in God’s eyes. It can all be very confusing.

If I were God, I would have done it differently. I would have made sure that everyone knew exactly what to believe, and how to act, and who was in, and who was out. Everyone would know exactly how to be saved and what you have to do and what you don’t. But God didn’t. This is the way that God decided to make things. And one thing we all believe is that God knows best.

Thank God, I’m not God.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jeffrey