

Spiritual Reflection for October 2019

Survey Says

It seems everyone wants you to complete a survey! When did society get so off track that suddenly the only moral/ethical compass we have or the only way we can function is by relying on the results of a survey and making rules accordingly? It makes me wonder, should the most important survey be a personal survey? Let's consider what that survey says.

It doesn't matter whether you are ordering something online, getting information on the phone, picking up groceries, buying a car, seeing your doctor, having your hair cut, using a lawn service, etc., etc., everyone seems to want you to complete a survey. There should be a better way to live so that we wouldn't need to complete or work from a survey. Personally, I think surveys are often just a place for people to complain.

If you think about the surveys you have completed in your lifetime, how many of them did you complete when you had an excellent experience? How many did you complete when you had a bad experience? I can understand the importance of gathering feedback, but I am willing to bet that more often than not people who have a positive experience do not take the time to fill out a survey. On the other hand, if something was not satisfactory, I bet they completed a survey and quite likely with a bit of anger added. I understand we need to report when something is not right, no doubt, but you can see how surveys get skewed.

What about a personal survey? What if everyone did a personal survey and then lived their life concentrating on improving their score? One of my favorite bible verses is found in Galatians 5:22-23. In this verse we are instructed how to live our life by the Spirit. In this verse there are guidelines to help us live a life of harmony, "against these things there is no law". Perhaps we should use the fruit of the spirit as our personal survey...

On a scale of 1-5, 1 being rarely and 5 being always, evaluate yourself for these statements:

1. I am loving toward others
2. I find joy in living
3. I promote peacefulness
4. I am patient with others
5. I am kind toward others
6. I model goodness
7. I am faithful and can be trusted
8. I am gentle with those who are troubled
9. I practice self-control in my relationships

Just think how wonderful the world would be if each individual concentrated on improving their own personal score. Think of how the world could be a better place and there would be no need for developing mandatory trainings to improve the way we interact with one another. There is a song titled, Live Like That by Sidewalk Prophets and when I hear it, I am

reminded to evaluate each characteristic of the spiritual fruit in my life so that I can improve my own score.

“Sometimes I think
What will people say of me
When I'm only just a memory
When I'm home where my soul belongs
Was I love
When no one else would show up
Was I Jesus to the least of those
Was my worship more than just a song
I want to live like that”... (check out this song, it is a great self-survey)

When you and I are called home to the Lord, I hope the creator will be happy with what the survey says.

Questions to ponder:

- How do I interact with others?
- How often do I offer kindness and gentleness to people who are having a bad day?
- How do I make a difference in the lives of others?
- In my daily work, do I serve others the way I wish to be served?
- What characteristic is God calling me to improve in my personal survey?

May God's Peace be With You,

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