

Emily Axe (12/31/10)

What does it mean to be the body of Christ for the glory of God? Part III

I spend a lot of time with teens. Well, perhaps a lot of time is not the case, but I do spend a good amount of time with teen girls on a weekly basis. I mean they interest me, they are so dramatic and emotional, they take the smallest ideas out of proportion, and they are often bored. When I look back at my teen years I often wonder, “Was I really like this? Did I really act like these girls? Surely not.” But I am trying my best to be a good role model for these lives and honesty is so important.

Most of the time I spend with these girls I have a couple of rules I go by. One is the no-texting rule. I tell these girls I want to spend time with them not time with their cell phones and it works on both ends. After all, if I am making it a rule I need to hold myself accountable. Another rule I go by deals with time. I like to stay consistent with each teen; this also helps the girls see that I am not playing favorites and I appreciate the time we have together. Often we end up going on walks or heading uptown to sit at a coffee shop and talk about nothing. But time is important, and I often realize it is not really what we do but the time we do whatever, together.

Lately I have been reflecting on the topics of our conversations. One topic all teen girls love to dish about is boys. By gosh, these girls could talk forever about the opposite sex and not get tired of it. We talk about the guys they like, why they like these guys, the guys they have dated, the guys they want to date, why hasn't their current boyfriend sent them a text yet, how lucky so-and-so is because she is dating this certain guy, etc... I do not grow tired of these teen girls, these beautiful insecure sincere teen

girls. Often our best conversation usually happens within the last fifteen minutes of hanging out, on the drive home when she has found the perfect song on the radio to dance in the car to. This is when my teen friend will ask a serious question that needs to be answered in the next ten minutes before she steps out of the car.

This is what I see as glorifying my Father who art in Heaven. Sitting in my old red Grand Am talking about love and life and singing as loud as we can to the radio. Taking time for one another, no matter the age gap or the life experience. The body of Christ is a relational unit, a relational being. Time can be a rich commodity. I crave more of it sometimes, but would I spend it wisely? And just how would I glorify God with it? I want to glorify God with the time I spend with these young ladies, it is no good to be the body and not exercise. I want to be a safe place to come to with questions, with hurts, with their ideas about this world and why we are here; and this I feel is the best way I can glorify Christ.

Summary

What does it mean to be the body of Christ in the world, for the world, for the glory of God? I think it means we need to exercise our childlike faith. To me, to **be** the body also means to work **as a** body, together with other believers. Christ calls us to be in relationship with others to glorify Him, iron sharpening iron. He calls us to love our neighbor, to be a friend to the stranger, and to hope for the children hurt by this world.