

## *"A View From The Pew"*

Hi, Tom Susor here with these months "*A View from The Pew*". I look around the world today and the most predominant things we are directed to are angry people! People shouting at the top of their lungs their viewpoints, opinions, their beliefs. It is after all America, did we or did we not come up with the freedom of speech idea back in 1776? Of course, we did, and we are all better off because of it. We have actually shown the world the joys of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness! So, how did we get from there to where we are now? Its mind boggling as I look back on where society was in my youth verses where it is today. I can't attribute the change to any one thing. Today's societal changes are a product of a multitude of things, Industrialization has provided wonderful work saving conveniences that collectively altered and advanced our way of life, as well as the way we think. This is known as progress. Only today progress travels at lightspeed via the internet! We know longer take time for civility! We find everything we need ourselves on our own with little screens by pushing little keys and then Shazam! All the answers we need. What a wonderful tool for all to have access too. This modern marvel, this access to everything is not without its dark side and I'm not referring to the dark web. I'm speaking of the loss of human interaction. We watch our children and grandchildren sitting on a couch or around the table not speaking just focused on their phones. There's a price to pay when we forgo personal interaction with other people. We lose contact with their expressions and voice inflections. You see a word can mean many things when it's spoken in person as the mood of the moment has a direct meaning on the content of the sentence. In a text or email the emotion of the moment is left up in the air to be interpreted by the reader. Is this a good or a bad thing? Let's continue this story a bit before we answer that question.

Let's now take a look at how we get our information these days as things have changed dramatically since there were two papers a day in T-Town. We know longer have just one or two sources for news. What was formerly 2 or 3 local TV stations are now well over 100 and growing. Today's stations are 24 hr.'s a day seven days a week. I might also add we know longer have Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, or Walter Cronkite. We are now feed 30 second sound bites of sensationalism and if we want to get more of the story, we need to go to the web page to actually find the complete story. The fact of the matter is today news is delivered in a tabloid format. It is quite obvious there is more money in creating new than in reporting news.

I have rambled on a bit now about the state of the world today and have yet to even mention my topic for this early spring version of The View from the pew. As I have been lamenting the fast pace of today's world coupled with the "my voice is louder, so my opinion is right and yours is wrong". We then throw in the proliferation of half truths and innuendo, stir it all up and you get ANGER!

How can we as Christians combat today's societal passion for acting out in anger? We need to avoid the Will Smith moments in our lives. We can learn from The Apostle James in 1<sup>st</sup> James

Chapter 1 vs 2-4 teaches us about trouble and anger as an opportunity; <sup>2</sup> ***Dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup> For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.***

1<sup>st</sup> James Chapter 3 vs 2 teaches us about the dangers of the tongue; <sup>2</sup> ***Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.***

1<sup>st</sup> James Chapter 3 vs 17-18 Teaches us about the kind of wisdom God would like us to have.

<sup>17</sup> ***But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. <sup>18</sup> And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.<sup>[d]</sup>***

The Lord truly Loves the peacemakers, and that is the tool to defuse anger. Please choose to take the path of peace and compromise as it will defuse anger and hate. The world can be a better place if each of us can take the time to think before we react. Often time the best response is no response as it take two people to fight. The path of the peacemaker is the Godly path.

Remember when you think that "someone should do something" that someone can be you!!!!

Peace & Love  
Tom Susor Sr.