

This is the Day...Wednesday

May 11, 2022

Buttons

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

The sound of the footsteps coming down the hallway began to wake me up from a deep sleep. It was Mom, on her way to my room. Her high heel dress shoes made a loud “clip-clop” noise on the floor as she walked. That sound could only mean one thing. It was Sunday and Mom was dressed for church. As Mom was encouraging me to get out of my bed she was in my closet, picking out my clothes for Sunday worship. Mom did not expect us to “dress up” too much for worship, but she did expect us to be clean, neat, and wearing our nicest school clothes. For me that usually meant a pair of kaki or navy pants with a short sleeve, Banlon shirt like a golf shirt. I loved those shirts, mostly because they were easy to put on and only had three buttons.

As I got out of bed, I quickly noticed that something was different about my wardrobe. Mom laid out my kaki pants and then handed me a long sleeved, blue dress shirt with a button-down collar. I looked at the shirt, very confused, and Mom asked me what was wrong. “You want me to wear this? It will take me hours to put it on! Look at all the buttons!” This shirt was covered in buttons. Buttons all the way down the front. Buttons on the sleeves. Buttons on the collar. There must have been a thousand buttons on my shirt. Mom told me, “Young men wear nice shirts to church.” When Mom left the room, I put the shirt on, but I did not take the time to fasten all the buttons. As I headed to breakfast, Mom immediately noticed that I had skipped many of the buttons. She stopped me and fastened them as she told me, “You need the buttons. They hold the shirt together. The buttons are what makes the shirt special.”

Never has there been a truer statement. We need our buttons. It takes all kinds of buttons to hold us together. What buttons am I referring to? Think about how you feel when someone offers some words of encouragement to you. That is a button. How nice it is when a complete stranger is kind enough to hold the door for you or help you with your grocery bags. That is a button. How sweet it is when a grandchild offers an unsolicited hug or when a friend is patient enough to listen as you share one of life’s trials. Those are buttons. We need those buttons. They are what holds us together. God gave us buttons to share with each other. They are the fruits of the Spirit. The evidence that the Spirit is working in one’s life. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those are the buttons which hold life together. On this day which God has given you, be thankful for your buttons. It may take time and effort to share them, but they will make someone’s life special. They hold us together.