

Grace Notes

Does He Love Me?

10.15.09



***The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).
John 10:10, Amplified***

My youngest daughter, Macy, turned 13 today. It's killing me. Nevertheless, I thought of a lesson the Lord taught me through her one day.

The year was 2001. We were getting ready to run a few errands. My wife, Michelle, was gathering up a few things in the house, Kelsie was finishing up a phone call, and Jordan – only God knows what Jordan was doing – when, all of a sudden I heard something coming from the front yard. It was singing – LOUD singing.

As I walked to the front door, (it was dark outside) I saw Macy – all 5 years old of her – standing out in the driveway drawing “circles” in the air with a neon-green “glow stick” singing “*Your mama don't dance and your daddy don't rock & roll...*” When she came to a line she didn't know it didn't matter.....she just made one up.

I stopped and marveled. Not because she was my daughter. But, because of all the wonder and life that comes from being a child. Apparently, she was not aware of how loudly she was singing, or how many people had stopped during their evening walk to listen to the “concert.”

All of a sudden she stopped singing. Thinking she was done, I started out the door to get her so we could go run our errands. Little did I know she was just getting warmed up. Exploding out the momentary silence, she belted out, “*Does he love me? I wanna know! How can I tell if he loves me so?.....It's in his kiss!...and now she's dancing.*”

The second century theologian, Irenaeus, once said, “*The glory of God is a person fully alive.*” Here it was the twenty-first century and, for a moment, I had the privilege of watching unparalleled joy and life take place in the middle of my own driveway.

As I thought later about that moment it occurred to me that we have an entire lost world asking the same question in Macy's song: *Does He love me – I wanna know?* What confuses them is when we, who claim to possess the life Jesus came to give, continually demonstrate a life a lost world simply doesn't want. “*I would believe in their Savior, if they acted more like they were saved,*” the 19th century atheist, Friedrich Nietzsche, once commented.

Jesus died so that we could live – truly live. And when a follower of Christ demonstrates that kind of *life* a lost world stops and watches – regardless of if you're five or eighty-five..



The life Jesus died to give us is ours not just in heaven, but right here – right now. Today, live “life to the full.” The glow-stick is optional.

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick