

## **WE HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON**

On Monday morning my daughter Coral and I were in Simcoe at the Drive Test location so that she could take her G license road test. After registering inside at the kiosk, we happened to head back out to her car at the same time another driver finished taking his test. This driver looked about my daughter's age and the smile on his face told me he had successfully passed.

Seeing we had something in common I decided to ask him which route the instructor took him on. He not only shared the route for that day but some of the things the instructor was looking for. He eased my daughter's worries by saying she did not have to do a parallel park on this test. After sharing these tips, he smiled and wished my daughter success.

I waited for my daughter at the Drive Test location as she went out on the route with the instructor. I found myself at one moment standing beside another person who was also waiting for their family member to return from their test. We shared with one another how nervous our loved ones were, and how we hoped they passed. Coral arrived back at the Drive Test center first and she gave me the "thumbs up" sign as she got out of the car indicating she had passed, I immediately smiled and shared my daughter's good news with the lady beside me. Naturally I had to go and give my daughter a hug, but before doing so I said to the lady that I hoped her family member came back with the same good news.

When we went back inside the Drive Test center so that Coral could get her temporary G license, we had to sit and wait. There was another woman sitting in the chair beside my daughter with her license in hand. Once again, seeing somebody we had something in common with, I asked her if she had taken her test yet. She shared that when she arrived and scanned her license at the kiosk she discovered she required glasses in order to take the test. This caught her by surprise since she has only ever worn glasses for reading and has never worn them for driving. She was waiting to have a change made to her license about the need to wear glasses. As we were leaving, we took a moment to wish her well in getting the situation rectified and she was appreciative.

My daughter and I had never met any of these people before our visit to the Drive Test center on Monday. All it took was for us to share something in common with them at that moment in order to offer one another advice and words of encouragement.

It is refreshing to see this kind of positive behavior happen between complete strangers. As I reflected upon this on Monday afternoon, I realized that the reason why this positive interaction happened was not only because we shared something in common, but also that I initiated the conversations each time. I often hear people say they wish these kinds of positive interactions would occur more. It hit me that this could become more of a reality if believers would take what we share in common with Jesus and apply it to situations when we do experience something in common with others.

What all believers share in common with Jesus and one another is a desire to obey the two most important commandments. When Jesus was asked which commandments were the most important, He responded by saying:

**The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31)**

Jesus displayed His faith each day by following these two commandments and He wants His followers to share this in common with Him. When we love God completely and care for others as we care for ourselves then we are fulfilling these two commandments. We must understand that in fulfilling this second commandment we cannot show His care and love toward just some people and not all. James tells us in his letter:

**But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. (James 2:9).**

Just as my daughter and I experienced on Monday morning, we all find ourselves at times in situations where we share something in common with others whether they are known or unknown to us, or whether that person is a believer or not. I took the initiative that morning to start up conversations with each of them which led to care and goodwill being shown toward one another and toward us. I don't know if others saw the love of Christ on display Monday morning, but I certainly did. If we as believers would like to see more of this happening, I wonder if Jesus is reminding us through this example to initiate conversations in those moments, we might be sharing something in common with others so that Christ's love and care will be on display.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean