

Casual is not always appropriate

Dr. James L. Snyder

During this “stay-at-home” phenomenon, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly, have been enjoying our time alone. We certainly have taken advantage of it.

Not too long ago, my wife came up with something to make our time a little more memorable. She called it, casual pajama time.

After breakfast, we would wear our morning casual pajamas. After lunch, it would be our afternoon casual pajamas. And, after supper, it would be our evening casual pajamas.

It was early in the afternoon, and my wife took a nap. It was at that time I remembered something she said earlier that morning. For some reason, she forgot to get milk and eggs at the grocery store yesterday. I thought this would be an opportunity to get one over on her.

I would sneak out, go

to the grocery store, get some milk and eggs, sneak back into the house and put them in the refrigerator. Then, when she woke up, I would say, “Honey, I thought you said we didn’t have milk or eggs?”

That would be something I could live with forever and a day.

I got at the store, parked, and began walking towards the entrance. There seem to be quite a few people in the parking lot, and for some reason, everybody was looking at me and smiling or even laughing.

Going into the store, I walked to where the milk and eggs were, and as I was walking, people stopped, looked at me and some smiled, some pointed a finger, and some even laughed. I thought to myself, what a wonderful world we live in when people are always happy and laughing.

Walking up to the cashier, I noticed people were still smiling and laughing, and some were even pointing at

me. The cashier greeted me with a very hesitant smile and rang up my items, and I was to pay with my credit card. I made conversation with the cashier and then stuck my hand in my pocket to pull out my wallet.

The problem was, I could not find my pocket. This has never happened before because I always know where my pockets in my pants are. I chuckled a little bit and then happened to look down and discovered I was wearing my casual afternoon pajamas.

I begin to understand why people were smiling and laughing and pointing at me. It was not that they were happy so much as it was I looked ridiculous in my afternoon casual pajamas. I have never worn pajamas out in public before, and I promised myself I would never do it again.

I did not know how to pay for those two items. Trying to figure

out what to do, someone came up behind me and told the cashier, “Put his items on my card because the entertainment has been worth it.”

Everybody behind me was laughing, and I did not know exactly what to do. I looked at the lady and said, “Thank you for this.”

“No,” she said, “thank you for the entertainment.”

Driving out of the parking lot, I could not help but think of a verse of Scripture, “And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise” (Luke 6:31).

Being generous sometimes is a little act of kindness.

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The NFL draft

The NFL draft has intrigued me for years.

Everyone in football strives to be number one. Not number two, or number three or the one in last place. No player ever goes out on the field saying, “Come on boys, let’s see how badly we can lose this game!” The goal is to win, to be the best, to show everybody how great the team is, how great you are.

And so they work. They practice. On good days and bad days. To be Number One.

Through elementary school, high school and college, they press on, not just for today but for the future. They dream of being chosen in the first round of the NFL draft and secretly...to be the NUMBER ONE PICK!

I don’t pay much attention to college football until Heisman Trophy time. This year I discovered a great deal about Joe Burrow, quarterback for LSU. I found that he’d started at Ohio State but then moved far away from home to Louisiana his Junior year. As a Senior, Burrow stepped up his game. He won the Heisman and was a sure guess to be the number one draft pick in 2020.

What amazes me about the NFL draft? The number one pick (arguably the very best college player in the country) goes to the very worst team of all-in a sense, the biggest losers.

How do you push yourself your whole life to be number one, and then your super great prize is to go to the team in LAST PLACE?

The number one draft pick appears to be a savior, of sorts, to the team in the most desperate need. He is their hope to rise from the ashes of defeat. He’s their plan for a new, victorious future. It’s a lot to ponder.

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Russell Springs, KY 42642
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