Craving the Good Life

Written by Bill Strom

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

I love the word *juxtaposition*—to place two things or ideas side by side to see how they click and clash to make new meaning. Today two flyers came in my mail, and their juxtaposition made me chuckle.

One was a glossy black, yellow, and red multi-sheet flyer with “CRAVE” at the top in 72-point font. A double-patty hamburger and fries completed the picture along with the promise of “up to $41 in savings” inside. The flyer was a booklet coaxing me to crave and cave to my fast-food inclinations.

The second flyer, equally glossy, asked the question “Is the ‘good life’ killing you?” It pictured a woman, exhausted on the floor, surrounded by her cell phone, rolodex, business binder, and office supplies. Its flipside promoted a seminar by an international speaker and life coach as to the true ‘good life’ and how God plays a part in it. While I’m not prone to signing up for such events, I was impressed that the speaker promised to offer a biblically-based approach to financial, physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional health.

Thus the juxtaposition. One business promoted the good life through indulging my cravings with double cheeseburgers, lattes, sugary soft drinks, and greasy fries. The other assumed the good life requires balance, faith, and personal direction.

Is it possible that fearing (respecting) God can influence our diet choices? Possibly. I don’t imagine wise and knowledgeable people lining up regularly at the drive thru. Can knowledge of God make a difference in our relationships? Or our finances? Some people don’t make these connections, but the writer of the proverb does. God-like wisdom probably helps us make wise decisions which better guides us to the good life.

Question: What really is ‘the good life’? Is it one of financial responsibility and relational bliss? And if these are part of it, what role does our relationship with God play in achieving them?

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