**DRIVING THE SECOND MILE**

***Drive Friendly – Live Friendly***

Before moving to Minnesota in 1986 I lived for seven years in the great state of Texas. I remember driving the highways throughout the state and seeing signs along the road that said, “Drive Friendly.” I liked that idea then, and after reflection I like that even more now. You know why? Because it says more than just obey the rules of the road. It says more than just drive defensively. It says more than just drive safely. It goes beyond the old slogan “Arrive Alive.” It goes beyond “drive sober.” It is more than just consideration for your own safety or that of your loved ones in the car with you.

You can obey the rules of the road out of obligation, ever sensing that just over the horizon might be a state trooper with a radar gun. You might drive cautiously in fear that following close behind you is a police officer in an unmarked car. In other words you obey the laws of safe driving only out of a fear of getting caught and paying a fine. The Law is what keeps you safely in the speed zone and driving alertly so as to protect yourself and others.

“Drive Friendly” goes beyond the Law. It goes deeper to relationships. Drive as if the guy in the car next to you, or heading toward you, is a dear friend, or your mother. That changes everything, doesn’t it? You “know” a friend, and out of love for him you drive to ensure his or her safety. You would feel horrible if you hurt them in a crash. It is not out of obligation you drive between the lines or drive sober, it is out of your relationship.

Allow me to change the sign from “Drive Friendly,” to “*Live Friendly*.” I want to go beyond the law of obligation to my fellow man, not just in my driving habits, but in my day-to-day living. I don’t want to feel compelled to treat others “nice.” I want to do as Jesus said and “*go the second mile*” out of a sense of love (Matt. 5:41).

While the city, county, state or nation might have laws which demand I go the first mile in respecting the rights of others, I know that my Lord told me to go the second mile out of a sense of loving my neighbor as myself (Matt. 22:39). Whenever I see another human being, no matter the age, gender, social, economic, or skin color – I must always say to myself, “I love you.” I must always think, “He (she) is made in the image of God and will stand before the Lord in judgment one day.” That changes everything. It becomes out of a sense of love I think of them, not of obligation to some rule or law.

***And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor,* *and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not* *have love, it profits me nothing. (I Cor 13:3)***

Yes, Drive friendly.

Better still, live friendly. It’s the Christ-like way. – Rick