

My Complaint

This:

One of the prices of modern life is that while we have more things than ever, we have less leisure than our grandparents did. When my grandfather left each day's work as an inventor for Brach's Candy Company at approximately 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, he left his work at work. He may have done a bit of design drawing or puttering at home, but the idea of being on-call 24/7 would have been obnoxious to him (family rumor has it that he had a lock on the inside of his workroom door and that even Mr. Brach had to knock). What our grandparents might have denounced as a kind of tyranny has become the modern way of life; when work calls, we answer, or face the consequences.

from this blog
post: <http://redcardigan.blogspot.com/2015/03/fathers-please-talk-to-fathers.html>

is exactly my complaint.

I once took an anthropology class and it was pointed out that people living in hunter/gatherer cultures have more free time than we do. Our "time saving" conveniences, far from saving us time, cause us to consume more and expect others to consume more. We are saving ourselves into the temporal poor house.

A very good book that goes at this from a fictional narrative is [Momo by Michael Ende](#).

God Has Even Blessed Death

It has been clear to me for some time that all evil that man and demon perpetrate is turned to some greater good by God. He excels at that. We do not always see it, but when I do, I am always amazed.

Ran across this quote:

... so also has the Devil, the father of death, been put to rout through the death of Christ. He finds that the very same weapon he used to wield as the ready tool of his deceit has now become the mighty instrument of his own destruction.

I think this is a key component of why Jesus points out that it is necessary that salvation had to come through death.

Good?

Saw this on social media, posted by an atheist, presumably to take a stab at us Christians:

If you're good because you fear hell, you're not good.

To which I reply, "What is meant by 'good'?"

This is the fundamental problem with attacking morality and then claiming there is nothing fixed from which morality derives.

You cannot claim to be "good" or "bad" if you do not fix morality in an immutable absolute.

So, after a little back and forth with the person, including some others chiming in to tell me to shut up and inform me how ignorant I am, it came down to this, I think: the intent of the post was the difference between “doing good” and “being good”.

Now that I find intriguing, because it begs a means of evaluating motive. I have to give this some thought ...

Others said “good” depends on what evolution makes a social species do to support its survival, or maximize happiness while minimizing suffering. But they didn’t all say it very nicely. They certainly were not being “good” in my opinion.

But there is something deeper that gets at the heart of the matter. Temptation is not something we can always, on our own, resist. A healthy fear of consequences is often the extra anchor we need to remain firm in virtue. Venerable Louis of Granada:

Without the fear of God the soul is like a ship without ballast; the winds of human or divine favor may sweep it to destruction. Even if she is richly laden with virtue, she is in continual danger of being wrecked on the rocks of temptation, if she is not steadied by this ballast of the fear of God.

This Guy