

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:12

There are times when I get a sense that I am being called to write on a particular topic that might be a little hard to read about, one that might make some folks a little uncomfortable. This is such an article. So get comfortable and say a prayer.

What is the topic today?

The topic is life, a rather broad topic to be sure. So let me narrow it down a little. I would like to write about the brevity or shortness of life.

Put another way, I feel the need to tell you that life is short.

You already knew that? Good.

How do you live it?

You see life really is very, very short. I have seen that first hand in many, many ways in my life.

I have prayed with people and family members as one slipped from this life to the presence of God. Often this happens with elderly people, but sometimes it happens with young people. And while it is always sad when anyone dies, it is especially sad when a young person dies.

Life is short.

The other day my neighbor apologized for a truck that was blocking some access. He seemed very upset about it. I turned to him and smiled and said that if a truck blocking some access was the worse thing that happened to me this week, then it was going to be a great week!

Some would brood over such an offense as an improperly parked truck. Some would brood about it for years.

Life is short.

I prefer to laugh it off. It's called perspective. Working as a chaplain at the hospital, I have come to see what is important, and what is not. Life is important, love is important, relationships are important. Parking is not.

Sometimes I walk out of the hospital with a whole new perspective. I find myself doing a self-assessment. I can breathe for myself and I can walk on my own. I am, for the most part, alert and appropriate. I can feed myself and go to the bathroom by myself. Independence, freedom, and self-autonomy are all important too.

But life is short.

I have seen people do the dumbest things and fight over the silliest things. I have seen families fight, neighbors fight, “Christians” fight, siblings fight, politicians fight, young people fight and old people fight.

I always want to tell these various fighters the same thing: life is short.

Life is altogether too short to allow differences to lead to fights. And yet they do. Sometimes adults fight like children. Sometimes children are more mature than adults as they make up and stay friends while the adults continue to squabble, for years.

Sometimes the differences and fights are over some sort of miscommunication or misinformation. But it happens. Everyone forgets that life is short.

I don't know if it is too late to forgive a person after they have died. I hope not. I do believe that it is easier to make up when everyone is still above ground.

Remember, it is never too late to make up.

Perhaps as you read this you are thinking of someone to whom you never said, “sorry.” Maybe you don't even remember what it was that caused the fight. Or perhaps you are reading this thinking of someone to whom you never said, “love” or “appreciation.”

Put down the paper, pick up the phone, make the call, write the letter, or send the email.

And do it now.

Why?

Life is short.

All are welcome to receive communion at Prince of Peace. Worship is at 7:30 and 10:00 am.

May God bless and heal you.

Fr. Steve+