

Love Letter from Lisa

Oh Ladies...

I had a heart breaking experience this past week while chatting with a group of 6th and 7th graders. This particular school serves a more at risk community. I began my talk by asking the group how many of them had ever been rejected somehow. A few raised their hands sheepishly. I spoke a bit more about how difficult it is to process rejection. Then I asked how many had ever rejected someone else. To my horror, I saw more than half enthusiastically & proudly shoot their hands in the air. I almost couldn't talk anymore. These 11 & 12 year olds were extremely proud of their achievements in having smacked down another human being. What is happening in our culture?!? What are our youth learning?!? Are we the teachers?!?

I believe we have reached a critical mass level of apathy in our communities. The cultural flow is to be respected and seen without regard for the affect it has in the space between us. The focus is on the performance. And the harder hitting the performance, the better.

The definition of performance is "a musical, dramatic, or other entertainment presented before an audience". Social media accounts, public personas, and filters are all for the entertainment of an audience; highlights but not the whole story. I mean at first glance it all seems harmless until you ask a room full of our future what should have been a convicting question and get a shake of the soul.

Now don't get me wrong. I love a good giggle & sharing in the proud parent moment. But every so often I find myself feeling rejected by pics of a get-together I wasn't invited to. Or put off by a sea of complaints and political attacks. It feels well uninviting. No worries though; I worked through it with Lysa Terkheurst so I'm fine.

The point is we can all do better if we focus more on being BELIEVERS. Pastor Mike got me good in one sermon where he said

"if Christianity is a performance, we would be called performers. We are called believers".

It causes me to pause and be reminded of what I BELIEVE. I believe in the sacred word of God that came down from His throne so He could speak against wickedness. He came to teach that there is beautiful potential in every beloved human His Father set in motion. Then He commissioned every believer moving forward to live out that teaching. He told me, without question, to LOVE as He loved.

But if we don't live with that purpose intentionally, we are most likely caught up in the performance. Have you asked yourself lately, what the purpose your performance serves? What is the goal of your social media feed? Is it decisively a tool to make others experience the love of Jesus? Do we fill the space between us with an invitation to experience what we have experienced in our relationship with a living Savior?

I guess what I have concluded from this little jostling of my joy, is that this world needs more BELIEVERS showing off their belief in Jesus and His complete story of redemption than it needs highlight reels that may or not be the whole of anyone's story.

My recommitment to Jesus is this; that I apply Ephesians 4:29 not only to my mouth but all communications and all of my social interactions. Oh Lord please fill me up with the supernatural power it will take.

In The Name of Jesus ... Amen

♥ Lisa

Ephesians 4:29 Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up the one in need and bringing grace to those who listen.