

## “WHY”

### *Do we do what we do?*

Once upon a time there was a sixteen year old girl by the name of Susan. She had just gotten her drivers license and was excited about going out with her friends for the first time without her parents. There was a party at her friend's house that was going to last until eleven o'clock and she wanted to drive there by herself.

At dinner Susan asked her parents if she could drive to the party. They asked all of the appropriate questions and Susan gave answers that assured them that the party would not violate the family's values. Susan felt that there was no reason for her parents not to let her drive. Her parents surprised her by telling her that she needed to be home at 10:30 pm rather than 11:00 pm.

This didn't make any sense to Susan so she asked them why. Her parents told her that she needed to be home at 10:30 without even thinking about it or talking to Susan. When Susan asked why, her parents didn't know what to say. They instinctively said 10:30 without even thinking about it and now when asked why, they didn't have an answer. Being questioned, caused them to feel like their authority as parents was being questioned so they responded in a rather harsh tone. They told Susan if she wanted to drive to the party that she needed to be home at 10:30 and if not, that she could not go. Susan left confused, wounded and with a memory that would be difficult to forget. It would be difficult for Susan to ask the question “Why” again, unless her parents did something to regain her trust.

After Susan's parents said no to their daughter they began to question themselves. They saw the hurt on their daughter's face and wondered why they had responded to her as if she had hurt them. As they discussed what had happened, they realized that being home at 10:30 was the time their parents demanded that they needed to be home when they were dating. Instead of talking to Susan concerning what would be best for her, they simply quoted a rule that they had been forced to obey. They realized that they were forcing Susan to obey a rule that they themselves didn't think was fair. They went to Susan and, after discussing the situation, decided that coming home at 11:00 would be fine.

Asking the question, “Why?” is a very natural thing for children to ask. Parents tell their children what they can and can't do and even if a child is not being rebellious they want to know why. I believe that we should be asking the question “why” all of the time. We should know why we are doing what we are doing. **We should have good reasons for what we do or else we will wound ourselves and others.**

We are studying Faith and Practice in Sunday School and with Ministry and Counsel. I believe that we need to ask why we believe what we believe and why do what we do. We view Faith and Practice to be a guide to what we believe as a church. It has been used as a rule book at times and is worded in ways that tell us what we can and can't do. I believe that, in order to be committed to Faith and Practice, we need to understand what it means for us today, not simply what it meant to others in the past. **Demanding people to obey something without understanding why wounds them and causes them to disobey in order to do what they think is best, or comply in order to avoid being punished.**

Asking the question why opens the door to sharing the love of Christ with one another, rather than demanding others to follow rules that have become irrelevant. How you answer your children when they ask you why the sky is blue has more to do with helping them wonder, than giving them the right answer. Have you been taught to wonder why or blindly believe and obey?

Pastor Craig