

The Golden Rule

December 2, 2018

Thank you so much for choosing to worship with us today! We are thrilled you are here!

Happy first Sunday in December! The holidays are in full swing and the "big" day is getting close. Enjoy the time with family and friends. Make the most of this special time of year.

There is an article from 12/1/2016 on CNN.com about Brandy Vela. Brandy is an 18 year-old who committed suicide by shooting herself in the chest while her family watched and try to persuade her not to do it. How devastating! In my opinion, there is no word or words to adequately describe this horrible situation. I have read the article several times and each time the sick feeling in my stomach, heart and mind just deepens.

One thing in the article that eats at me is why she committed suicide. The article states that "she had been relentlessly bullied." Other people had treated her so badly that she simply couldn't take it anymore. And my fear is that we are allowing this kind of behavior, and sometimes celebrating it, in all parts of our society. Bosses bullying employees. Employees bullying bosses. Teachers bullying students. Students bullying teachers. Parents bullying their children. Children bullying their parents. Politicians bullying each other and their constituents. And yes, even constituents bullying politicians.

And so when students/children bully each other we are quick to write it off. We tell people to toughen up. I have used it and so have you. "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." Hogwash. That is probably the biggest lie that we have told ourselves. Words are powerful. Scripture is clear to point that out. James 3:6 tells us, "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell." Brandy had been bullied mostly by taunts about her weight.

So what do we do? We follow the words of Jesus. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31). "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12).

Make a difference in your world by being the one who refuses to follow the lead of the world and follows the lead of Jesus. Know Christ. Love others. Change the world. Yes, it can be that simple.

Tell someone about your love for Jesus and for him/her today.

All Things for Christ,
Michael