

## **You Ought to Be**

Bobbi-Jo was reading a statement on perspectives, saying, “The pessimist sees a dark tunnel, the optimist sees a light at the end of the tunnel, and the realist sees a train. The conductor of the train sees three fools standing on the track.” Hmmmm, interesting. I doubt an individual would ever find a dog, cat, or bird sitting on a railroad track contemplating a tunnel. Oh well, on with the story.

The perspective of the pessimist, optimist or realist is seen in every aspect of “human” life, i.e., what one does everyone else should be doing. Bobbi-Jo and I encountered a gentleman in a grocery store. As he viewed the selection of meat, in the cart, he said, “carnivore!” I asked, “Do you own a cat?” He said, “yes” (It is a result of my highly tuned ninja intuitive training that I was able to deduce that he did). Nevertheless, I said, “You know that cats are the most carnivorous creatures on the planet?” His facial expression went from lightly pink, to a morbid shade of gray as he toddled off. You see, cats are “obligate carnivores,” i.e., for a cat, eating meat is not a choice, it is survival. Anyway, the gentleman, who had adopted a vegetarian diet, believed that it should be mandatory for all. In Romans 14:2, as Paul addresses actions of liberty, he said, “One man hath faith to eat all things: but he that is weak eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth set at nought him that eateth not; and let not him that eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.” The problem? What is viewed by some as a matter of liberty is often viewed by others as a matter of moral rectitude. I digress.

These perspectives, i.e., pessimist, optimist or realist, invade every aspect of life: the optimist is “hopeful and confident about the future;” the pessimist sees “the worst aspect of things or believe that the worst will happen;” and the realist “see things as they really are and to deal with them in a practical way” (Webster’s).

Here’s your homework: Who is managing the train?

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