



How are you?

Question: When you ask someone how they are, do you really want to know the answer? Its something I've been thinking about lately. Asking how someone is...well, its just kind of the thing we do when we pass by someone we know at the mall, or see someone we haven't seen in awhile. Even when a cashier asks you, "**How are you today?**" at the store.

This happened to me last week. I brought my purchases up to the counter after a long day and the man behind the counter asked, "**How are you?**" I, of course, responded with, "I'm good, how are you?" Expecting a, "Good" in response. But he said, "Actually, I have a really bad headache and I'm so tired." Oh. Not what I was expecting. We talked for a few minutes and I told him I hoped he felt better. He replied with, "Probably not what you thought you'd hear when you asked how I was." That got me thinking. When we ask how someone is, do we really care **HOW** they are doing? And when someone asks the same question of us, are we giving a genuine answer?

Maybe we can all stop to do a little more listening and invest into another person's life, and really, truly care about the answer to the question, "How are you?" Don't just ask it to ask it. Care.

Just something I'm thinking about today. :)

Charles and Charlene emailed in their thoughts. Here's what they said:

Hi Christy,

The answer to your question is something we learned years ago in another culture.

In many non-western countries, people ask this question because they really, actually, and emphatically want to know about your life. They want to know your joys, your sorrows, your fears, and anything else that's important to you. Sharing the "times" of Ecclesiastes 3 makes relationships real. It also forces us to recognize our life situation and have real feelings.

Our western culture is no longer about relationships or being real. We're so "connected" that we're really DISconnected from ourselves and the myriads of others we contact in person, by phone, and by text. We have very little time for deep conversations and sharing important events in each others' lives. We're more concerned with getting to our next life-distracting activity. We don't want to look at our lives, and we'd certainly rather not feel the real feelings about what's happening.

So then the reason:

By asking "how are you?" we think we're being polite. It's meant as a rhetorical question – the intent being "I want to be nice and ask if you're doing ok but please don't respond with another answer if that's not the case." But when you think about it from a scriptural point of view, we're not loving our neighbor and instead breaking the 9th commandment by bearing false witness against ourselves (because the truth is that I really don't want to know!).

Blessings to you!

Charles & Charlene

We'd love to hear your comments! You can email me at dj@chvnradio.com

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Winnipeg Weather

Current: -2 °C
Humidity: 93 %
WindSpeed: SW 13 km/h
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