

Disharmony**971017**

Have you ever been subjected to the cacaphony of a small child banging on a piano keyboard? The little hands hit many keys so close together that they produce a very disharmonious sound. And yet the child smiles up at you as if it were all so beautiful because they think that they are doing so well! I can remember trying to play a song and my 3 year old niece trying to accompany me. Well, it just didn't work out. Even though I was generally playing the right notes, all you could hear were the klinkers.

Somewhere along the line, a little later in life, this kind of noise becomes very unpleasant. Actually the word "grating" comes to mind, sort of like scraping your fingers on the chalk board. There can even be a certain internal conflict when there is harmony of sound. I remember reading about one of the great composers who was awakened every morning by the sound of his wife playing an partial chord progression on the piano. He simply had to get up and finish it or he couldn't rest.

Another type of disharmony is found in the form of visual asymmetry. I was driving along the other day and saw a road sign for U.S. Highway 41, and the numbers were significantly off-center. I just wanted to stop and fix it somehow. It made me a little uneasy to see it like it was. It reminded me of our communion service at church and how certain people cannot bear to have the trays unevenly distributed. I have seen men get up and move trays to make sure that there is the same number is on each side of the table. Similarly, who of us hasn't stopped to straighten a picture frame that was hung crooked?

Why do we act like this? It is because we have a great need for order in our lives. Disharmony is hard to listen to; it is hard to look at; but it is really hard to live with. Audio or visual imbalance are not really the important thing; we should be concerned with our spiritual harmony. But we generally aren't as affected by the need to get our spiritual lives in order. I think it affects us deep down, but on the surface we don't rush to get this picture straightened. We end up living with that vague feeling that something is wrong, or out of kilter.

The Navajo Indians looked at this in a much better way than we do. Their watchword was "Go in Beauty." And when there were problems in their lives they sought to put things back in harmony. Instead of trying to get revenge, for instance, they strove for harmony: the proper balance with all things. We can learn a lesson from this.

Harmony with God and man should be our central task. We must be in balance in all respects to God and His Goodness. We must be able to feel when we are out of sync with His will and continually make adjustments to bring us back online. And in tuning ourselves up like this, we will feel much better.

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