

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

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October 1, 2020



A fall photo seems appropriate today, October 1st. [Taken at Hope Valley, near Lake Tahoe]

## Shy People Unite! (Quietly)

Preachers I've met over the years tend to have the gift of gab, are sociable and the model of what we call a "people person." Seeing this, therefore, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be a preacher or, in fact, doing any public speaking at all. And, I confess, I'm still not totally at home with it sometimes.

I'm telling you this to encourage the shy and bashful among us — those of you are barely noticed, who stand in the background, perhaps even in the shadow of other family members. You are never the life of the party or the class clown. But that's perfectly OK.

I was that person, standing in the shadows. I had a very funny brother and two really cute sisters. And I hated crowds. I feared public speaking more than death itself and wanted to be left alone most of the time. If I spent a day reading, listening to some music, or watching a baseball game, that was a really good day.

Going on a dates put me ill at ease. I have never liked or been good at small talk but when you're with someone you don't know very well, what else can you do but talk small? I remember reading a book about dating and it was pretty corny. It suggested meaningful conversation starters like, "what do you think about the Cub's chances of winning the world series this year?" I tried that once and the response from the young lady was not surprising — something like "what? The cubs??" followed by my sheepish, "never mind" followed by excruciatingly awkward silence.

So, I relate to quiet, shy people, much more than to chatty ones. In our young peoples' class, I'm hesitant to put any of the kids on the spot because I still have nightmares about when that was done to me and I could only come up with some ridiculously foolish answer off the top of my head (I've found that the top of my head has a very low IQ).

I respect people who listen more than they talk, though I fear I often fail at that myself. Proverbs 18:2 reminds us, "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." Opinions are a dime a dozen these days, and are I'm getting tired of hearing them — *some actual facts would be nice to bear once-in-a-while*. Then there are those who have no fear of speaking up at all and do it with impunity. Proverbs 29:11 talks about them: "A fool gives full vent to his spirit..." The proverb goes to say, "...but a wise man quietly holds it back."

If you're young, and you are a shy, reserved person, I know how uncomfortable it can be at times. But take heart. There were things that happened in my life that brought me out of my shell — at least about three-quarters of the way out. That will probably happen to you, too. But if not, don't fret. There are plenty of people who love to take the floor and soak up the attention. We enjoy some of those people, so that's fine but getting attention can be way overrated.

Maybe it's because of the times we're living through right now or because we are bombarded with talk all the time, but I really appreciate quiet, reserved people now, more than ever.

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