

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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Why are they stopping at the yield sign??? This was a frustrated question that my wife asked recently while we were moving through one of those new-fangled roundabouts. The car in front of our car was stopping at the yield sign when no oncoming traffic was approaching. You can imagine that someone following that car was at risk of instigating a rear end collision. These free-flowing traffic management systems are relatively recent developments in comparison with our experience to other parts of the world. Folks in cars, trucks, motorcycles, and bicycles in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East have been negotiating these circular roadways for years. Once you get used to it, and discover who really has the right of way, I'll have to admit that traffic moves along a lot smoother and easier...at least for those who have the same mindset. So what is the problem with those that stop at the yield signs? Is the concept of roundabouts a bit foreign to our American Culture...or could it be that this prospect of *yielding* has us bamboozled?

Consider that those who stop at yield signs are only part of the problem. The old-fashioned four-way stop seems to be hazardous as well. Try to determine whose turn it may be to move into the intersection with someone who is not used to following instructions! The one who is not used to stopping at the stop sign will assert themselves into a position belonging to another. This can result in a collision of the cars rather than a meeting of the minds! The problem of traveling through this world is hard enough in the physical realm. But let's think a minute about our spiritual journey.

There are those who roll through stop signs and stop at yield signs. This is out of order. And out of order things can be more than dangerous...they can be deadly. The one who is born again by the Spirit of God is alive to the life that God's Spirit orders. There are stop signs in certain places that the Lord has ordained. He has deemed it unsafe for us to keep traveling into some areas. It is wise to stop from time to time and reflect on our direction. Sometimes it's the way of the Lord for us to wait. But waiting is hard on a human. Especially when we think we know the way. And yielding is foreign to the American culture...at least that is one of the things that makes us proud to be Americans...our independent mindset. This Independence Day looks different to me somehow. Sinful pride seems to be on full display in our culture...and humility is in short supply.

When it comes to this concept of yielding, it can get us into trouble spiritually in two ways: Not yielding to God *and* yielding to sin. When a person doesn't yield to God they will naturally yield to sin. The unyielding human being is at odds with God, an enemy in opposition to His Kingdom. But once yielded to God, a person indwelt by the Spirit knows how to stop at the stop signs that God has placed and what it really means to yield. To yield to God is to surrender our will to His way. To submit to His leading and direction. When we are surrendered and yielded to Him and His direction, life begins to flow because it becomes ordered to Him, and by Him, and for Him.

Consider the following passage concerning this concept of yielding and submission.
Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. (James 4:7-10)

Knowing when to yield and the right way to stop keeps us from traveling round and round the roundabout. It gets kind of dizzy in there!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam