

## The Laity Minute

August 2019

I recently returned from a summer family vacation with my niece, Scarlett and nephew, Packer. Family vacations are always an exciting venture, aren't they?! It can be quite interesting to throw a bunch of people who are related in some way (who don't all live together usually) into one location for a week.

This vacation meant that I got to be in one house watching Scarlett and Packer be siblings. Packer finally decided to walk so, we all know what that means. It's time to get into big sister's stuff.

It was like watching my brother and me when we were little. He takes her stuff. She screams. Minor disagreement ensues. Somebody ends up laughing or smiling and the fight is over. Repeat the cycle again later. It's so awesome to watch this still new relationship grow. Even though they will lead separate lives, they will always have that fundamental connection that makes them family. Deep down, disagreements they have now and in the future become insignificant and their love for each other is what holds them together.

There seems to be much disagreement going on these days. Anywhere we look, someone is fighting with someone else. Turn on the news and some type of negativity will appear. Who's ready for a social media break? It seems like I can't even go to the store without seeing a driver honk at another driver because they didn't accelerate fast enough when the light turned green. We even have disagreement in the Methodist church right now. And we even make the national news for it. Having attended (and streamed) several church events such as District meetings and Annual/General Conference, I have seen my fair share of these disagreements. I'm sure you have seen them, too. How can people from the same group, who claim to love each other fight like that?

Disagreements can be minor. Sometimes they occur and we forget them as quickly as they happened. However, sometimes disagreements can be more severe. They can cause us to hold grudges, place blame, develop negative perceptions, and allow us to house hurt in our souls. They can be long-lasting and damaging to ourselves and others. And sometimes the disagreement just cannot come to an amenable solution and we go our separate ways. We even see disagreement in the Bible, as well. Some have a good outcome and some not so good.

As I observed Scarlett and Packer have their minor disagreements, I noticed how they each handled themselves. Even in their young ages, personalities show and interpersonal skills appear. But, what is amazing is the simplicity of it all in the end. After the bossiness and the differences, they still love each other. They won't always agree on everything. (My brother and I sure don't!) But, they love each other as family and as another human who God loves. So, no, we will not always agree. We may even have to go our separate ways after a disagreement. But, we can always take a cue from Scarlett and Packer to see others as family and God's children whether we agree or not.

Peace!