

ceLink

An eLetter to the ceCommunity from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education
"Networking People and Resources for Relevant Ministry to a Changing World"
August 2002

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ceLines:

I recently read an article from Christianity Today online by Andy Crouch about the word "cool," that ever-present, never-changing term that we use to define something that is...well..."cool." This term may have many meanings, depending on its context, but the primary reason we use it is to identify our belief that something has merit. It deserves to be noticed, pursued, or even admired. In short, "cool" is what we place value upon.

Andy's article caused me to think about what I consider "cool." Here's my list:

1. Looking at my wife and getting that warm, fuzzy "I love you so much" feeling.
2. Laying on the white sand beach in Destin, Florida catching some rays.
3. Connecting with God in an unpredictable, unplanned, spontaneous moment.
4. Shooting my lowest round of golf.
5. My dog, Monty, a miniature schnauzer that has more "personality" than a lot of people I know.

What's yours?

There's another aspect of "cool" that has a few shades of gray to it. This "cool" takes value into a different arena. Someone or something is "cool" to the exclusion of someone or something else. To be cool is to be set apart from the crowd, a little better than the average person or thing. It connotes an elite status. Thinking about this aspect of "cool" sent me on an inward journey to identify the things I believe to be "coolworthy."

This is a list that was a little harder for me to publish because, quite frankly, it doesn't make me seem as "cool" as I'd like to be, or at least as much as I'd like you to think I am.

Here's my list:

1. Wanting people to think I'm "cool."
2. Needing people to think I'm "cool."
3. Doing things that I think people will think are "cool."
4. Only hanging out with "cool" people.
5. Thinking my "cool" list is the coolest.

What's yours?

I am clueless as to what your first "cool" list would look like. We all have different click-points in our lives that provide us with affirming feedback. You may prefer a west coast beach to a gulf coast one. To you, golf may seem more like punishment than pleasure. Your dog may have more personality than mine. (Not true-but you're entitled to your opinion!) However, if I were to guess at the five points of your second "cool" list, I have a feeling they wouldn't be that dissimilar to mine.

There are multiple reasons why we place our desires and ourselves in a higher than thou position, but the bottom line is that we do it, and that's well. NOT "cool."

(View Andy's article at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/003/35.72.html>.)

I'm praying for you.

Until next time. I wish you well,
Randy C. Walls, Director
AGTS Continuing Education

ceCommunity:

Let me pose a question for you.

"If you had an option for connecting with a cohort of your peers in a regularly scheduled set of pre-determined courses that would make it possible for you to complete your degree in four (or less) years would you be interested in doing so? Why? Why not?"

I'd really love to hear from you on this one. We're constantly striving to provide you with the very best continuing education program possible. We're exploring new ideas, topics, and delivery systems. Your feedback on the "cohort model" would be very helpful. Thanks, RCW

Here's what some from our ceCommunity have been up to lately.

Paul Drost (MACM Cohort #1), director of A/G church planting, has an interview in the July 14 issue of the Pentecostal Evangel about the basics of planting churches in America. Good stuff Paul!!!

To read this article online, go to: http://pentecostalevangel.ag.org/pentecostal-evangel/conversations2002/4601_drost.cfm.

Byron Klaus, AGTS President, and Earl Creps, AGTS D.Min. Director, have been doing a series on the statement of 16 fundamental truths in the Pentecostal Evangel. To see the latest from Dr. Klaus, go to:

http://pentecostalevangel.ag.org/pentecostal-evangel/Articles2002/foundational_6.cfm.

There's also an archive listing on the PE Webpage for previous articles.

See also the articles by Earl Creps, Edgar Lee, AGTS Senior Professor, and Tom McDonald, A/G Commissioner on Worship and AGTS Adjunct Faculty in the most recent online version of the Enrichment Journal. Go to:

http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org/enrichmentjournal/200204/200204_000_toc.cfm

Great articles on the timely subjects of postmodernism, "openness of God" theology, and worship!

NOTE: Make plans to attend a special one-week seminar at AGTS with Tom McDonald. "Putting an End to the Worship Wars" - January 20-24, 2003, Mon.-Fri. -- 1-10pm (Graduate credit option available)

ceLinks:

www.relevantmagazine.com

This is a great site to connect you to a spiritual perspective on popular culture. It reviews events, music, art, people, etc. to give you a window into how our culture views, understands and grapples with spirituality and life. See ceSources below for a couple of books from this site.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2002/009/3.40.html>

Great article on the "radical" commitment that many people are taking into the marketplace with them. It's an interview with Colleen Carol, a journalist who interviewed 500 young people on how their faith impacts their lives as they interact with their world. Some interesting observations here.

ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

I.Am.Relevant by various authors explores the lives of several people, many of them "famous," in order to understand how they approach their world and their lives with a connection to God. Dan Haseltine, lead singer of Jars of Clay, wrote the forward of the book. Read this one for a close-up view of how some of "us" are trying to connect with our world.

Another book to consider from the RelevantMagazine group is *Enter the Worship Circle*. Ben Pasley, singer, songwriter for *100 Portraits*, wrote this book as a reflection upon some of his music. Using seven voices, it reflects upon the adventure of worshipping God.

ceCourses:

A Full Slate of "Fall" Courses for All of Your ceNeeds!

"Ministry on the Edge: The Mission to Post-Christian America" is coming to Philadelphia November 18-19, 2002. We'll be at the Renaissance Hotel next to the airport for two days of strategic thinking and interaction with Brian McLaren, Byron Klaus, Earl Creps and a panel of church leaders seeking to impact their culture with the Gospel. The cost for the seminar will be \$150 per person through November 1 (early bird special), and \$175 afterwards. The hotel is giving us a special group rate of \$115/night plus taxes through November 1. Participants must book their own hotel rooms. For those traveling longer distance to attend, the group rate applies to Saturday night, Nov. 16 through Tuesday night, Nov. 19. We look forward to seeing you there! The syllabus for the course is available on our web page for those interested in taking the graduate credit option (registration fee waived).

See the schedule on the AGTS website.

http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/sites/schedules.html

Contact us 8am - 4:30pm CST at:

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