

A Kiss on the Front Porch

Would you mind a silly story from years gone by?

At the end of their first date, a young man takes his favorite girl home. Emboldened by the night, he decides to try for that important first kiss.

They step up on the porch. With an air of confidence, he leans with his hand against the wall and, smiling, he says to her, "Darling, how about a goodnight kiss?"

Horrified, she replies, "Are you mad? My parents will see us!"

"Oh, come on!" he says. "Who's gonna see us at this hour?"

"No, please," she says. "Can you imagine what we'd do if we get caught?"

"Oh, come on," he persists. "There's nobody around; they're all sleeping."

"No way," she says. "It's just too risky!"

"Oh, please," he continues. "Please. I like you so much!"

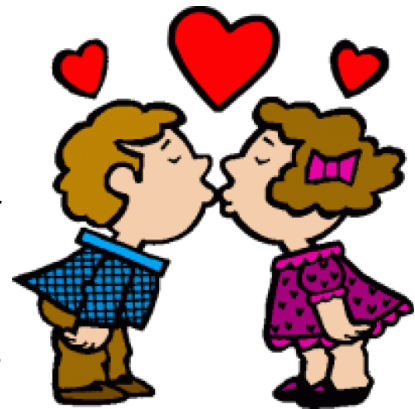
"No, no and no," she insisted. "I like you, too, but I just can't!"

"Oh yes, you can," he begs. "Please?"

"No, no," she declares. "I just can't!"

"Pleeease?"

Out of the blue, the porch light goes on, and the girl's sister shows up in her pajamas, hair disheveled. In a sleepy voice, the sister says: "Dad says to go ahead and give him a kiss. Or I can do it. Or if need be, he'll come down himself and do it. But for crying out loud, tell him to take his hand off the intercom button!"



That's a funny story.

But there is a spiritual lesson in it. The truth is, we are all pushing hard on God's intercom button. He knows every word we speak. More than that, He knows our thoughts.

(more)

That truth is sobering. I think about all the unkind words I have spoken, whether in anger, or as gossip, or idle thoughts, or meaningless expressions, and a wish for a do-over arises. That, of course, is impossible.

But here is the good news: We serve a gracious, merciful God, who is eager to forgive and forget our waywardness. In fact, He loves us so much that, despite our sins, He wants us to come live with Him in heaven. That's possible because God sent His Son to die on a cross in our place. Because of faith in Christ, making Him the Lord of our lives, eternal life is His gift to us.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter