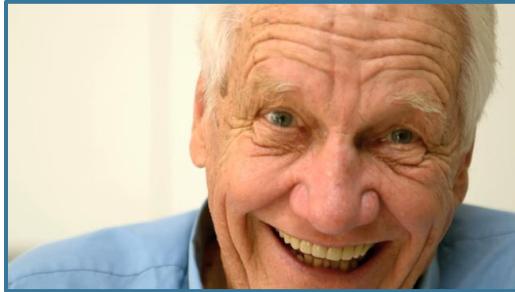


An Important Personal Question

A cheerful old man asked the same question of just about every new acquaintance he fell into conversation with: “What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?”



He never asked conventional questions, such as “What do you do for a living?” It was always, “What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?”

It was an unsettling question for people who had built their self-esteem on their wealth or their family name or their exalted job title.

Not that the old man was a fierce interrogator. He was delighted by a woman who answered, “I’m doing a good job of raising three children,” and by a cabinetmaker who said, “I believe in good workmanship and practice it,” and by a woman who said, “I started a bookstore and it’s the best bookstore for miles around.”

“I don’t really care how they answer,” said the old man. “I just want to put the thought into their minds.

“They should live their lives in such a way that they can have a good answer,” he continued. “Not a good answer for me, but for themselves. That’s what’s important.”

So, as you are reading this ...

- In a standup meeting with fellow associates in your facility this morning,
- Or sitting alone at the table for breakfast or lunch,
- Or quietly meditating on the day, at its start or end,
- Or reflecting on your day’s responsibilities as you open up your computer,

The question for *you* is: What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?

As you consider your answer, just remember: It is a rare and high privilege to help people understand the difference they can make – not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of others – simply by giving of themselves.

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others (Philippians 2:4 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter