

Standing on Holy Ground

Leonard Sweet, minister and author, describes a poignant incident in his book *Postmodern Pilgrims*.

He visited a little girl dying of cancer.

“Her body was disfigured by her disease and its treatment,” he wrote. “She was in constant pain. As I entered her room, I was overcome by her suffering, which seemed unjust, unfair, unreasonable. Even more overpowering was the presence of her grandmother lying in bed beside her with her huge body embracing this precious 8-year-old.”

Sweet was deeply affected by the moment.

“I stood in awe, knowing I was on holy ground. I will never forget the great, gentle arms of this grandmother. She never spoke but simply held her granddaughter, participating in suffering that she could not relieve. No words could express the magnitude of her love.”

Sweet was describing a scene similar to what associates in Life Care encounter as they deal with families who are anxiously seeking to comfort loved ones who are approaching death.

The passing of a person from this life – someone who was created by God and allowed to walk upon His green earth because of our Lord’s grace and mercy – is a sacred event.

It is in these times that we are measured and remembered by the extent to which we connect with their emotions and participate in their suffering.

Our compassion – the emotion that motivates a desire to help – must be our response, and one that is true and sincere.

In that process, blessings flow to all parties. After all, it *is* holy ground.

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12).

– Beecher Hunter