

Opinions.

I grew up in a sphere of influence that included, for a short time, great-grandparents born in the mid-1800s, grandparents born in the late 1800s, and parents both born in the early 1900s. My father was a sergeant in the Army during World War 2, so he returned from the war with some unresolved problems. The nation had unresolved issues they kept secret.

At age fifteen, I read The Bible while at parochial school, but I also read novels from writers such as Camu, Frankl, Rumi, Kesi, Golding, and so many more. Then there were all the mystics from India with their wise ideas on how I could live better. Add to that my family, friends, the music I listened to, Dylan and the Jefferson Airplane, and simply living while processing all of the voluminous advice and opinions I was receiving became confusing.

Years later, the internet became a behemoth of information, followed almost immediately by an equal amount of misinformation. Whew, and people split into factions, large and small. Opinions often became comedic or vehement arguments, and lost was the inalienable right for everyone to live and let live—especially the last part—let live.

Imagine if we stopped seeking the advice of others and giving advice to others on how to live and what to think and instead talked things over with ourselves.

Some advice feels good coming in through my ears or my eyes, but the advice from bullies and mean people doesn't feel nice.

I integrate 'live and let live' into my life and have done so for as long as I can remember. I have also rebelled against people and my government when they wouldn't leave me alone to live my life.

But then I reached an age where my children were grown, I sold my business, and I wasn't wanted or needed to fill any need in society. Finally, I could live and let live. I faded into my life,

a life with fewer daily worries than before and more full than anything I had known. I made friends with the critters and birds that lived around me. I investigated everything I could, and I still do.

If we do only what society deems important, we might not be doing things that are of equal or even greater importance.

Written by Peter Skeels © 4-22-2024