

KEEP IT SIMPLE, SILLY

(2 Timothy 2:8-15)

Intro: I'd like to give each of you a kiss.
-Candy kiss.
#Reminder to:
*Keep It Simple, Silly.

I. Timothy Received a K.I.S.S.

A. Remember Jesus Christ, Raised From The Dead.

1. That is God's K.I.S.S.
 - a. So simple.
 - b. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
2. Not Jesus.
 - a. Preacher.
 - b. Story teller.
 - c. Miracle worker.
3. But Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
 - a. God's loving K.I.S.S.
 - b. Gospel.
 - God's good news.
 - #For Timothy.
 - #For the world.
 - God's gift of salvation.
 - #For Timothy.
 - #For the world.
 - *Saved from:
 - +Eternal consequences of:
 - =Sin.
 - =Death.
 - =Devil.
 - *Saved for:
 - +Dying every day to:
 - =Self.
 - =Sin.
 - +Living faithfully every day in:
 - =Prayer.
 - =Praise.
 - =Worship.
 - =Thanksgiving.

- God's K.I.S.S.
- #Not:
 - *Deserved.
 - *Earned.
 - *Bought.
- #But received in faith.
- God's K.I.S.S. for Timothy.
- #Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.

B. God Has A K.I.S.S. For Us.

1. It's the same K.I.S.S. offered to Timothy.
 - a. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
 - b. So simple.
2. We have a way of making things complicated.
 - a. Next week we will vote on the *Framework of Understanding*.
 - Whether or not to move:
 - #Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church.
 - #Bethany Lutheran Church.
 - *Toward a possible consolidation.
 - It looks complicated.
 - #5 pages of text.
 - #6 pages of appendices.
 - If the *Framework of Understanding* is approved.
 - #Things will really get complicated.
 - #We may get:
 - *Absorbed with.
 - *Frustrated by.
 - +Discussions about:
 - =Buildings.
 - =Budgets.
 - =Worship styles.
 - =Worship times.
 - =Whatever else the next documents may address.
 - We will continually long for a K.I.S.S.
 - #God's K.I.S.S.
 - *To center us again and again.
 - +On why we have:
 - =Buildings.
 - =Budgets.
 - =Worship styles.
 - =Worship times.
 - In the first place.
 - +Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
 - =Keep It Simple, Silly.

- b. We are moving forward with the next steps in congregational renewal.
 - Rekindle the Fire.*
 - #Looking backwards.
 - *Timelines.
 - *Pictures boards.
 - #So that we can move forward.
 - *Small groups.
 - +Dreaming.
 - +Envisioning.
 - I don't know how complicated that might get.
 - #But we may very well be juggling:
 - *Consolidation.
 - *Congregational renewal.
 - +At the same time.
 - We will probably need a lot of K.I.S.S.es.
 - #God's reminder:
 - *Keep It Simple, Silly.
 - #God's K.I.S.S.
 - *Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.
- 3. God K.I.S.S.es us at this altar.
 - a. In bread and wine.
 - b. Remembering us.
 - c. Reminding us.
 - Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.

II. Naaman Received A K.I.S.S. (2 Kings 5: 1-15c).

A. Actually Three K.I.S.S.es.

- 1. Israelite slave girl gave him a K.I.S.S.
 - a. Naaman was commander of the army of Aram.
 - Syria.
 - b. God had given victory to Aram.
 - Victory=salvation.
 - #In Hebrew.
 - Victory/salvation outside of Israel.
 - #Interesting!
 - c. Naaman had taken a young Israelite girl captive.
 - During one of his battles.
 - Girl served Naaman's wife.
 - d. Naaman had leprosy.
 - Slave girl gave Naaman a K.I.S.S.
 - #Simple advice.
 - #"You should see the prophet in Samaria for a cure."

- e. But Naaman complicated things.
 - He went to the king of Aram.
 - #Who wrote a letter of introduction to the king of Israel.
 - *Who took it as an act of war.
 - +Thinking he was being asked to do the impossible.
 - =Heal Naaman's leprosy.
 - If only Naaman had received the slave girl's K.I.S.S.
 - #Kept things simple.
 - #Gone directly to Elisha.
 - 2. Elisha gave Naaman a K.I.S.S.
 - a. "Go and wash in the Jordan River seven times."
 - Keep it simple, silly.
 - b. But Naaman complicated things.
 - Taking offense that Elisha hadn't:
 - #Laid hands on him.
 - #Waved a magic wand over him.
 - Complaining that the rivers back home in Damascus were:
 - #Bigger.
 - #Better.
 - 3. Naaman's servants gave him a K.I.S.S.
 - a. "Hey, the prophet didn't tell you to do anything difficult."
 - b. "It was just a simple directive:"
 - "Wash."
 - "Be clean."
 - c. "Keep it simple, silly."
 - Naaman took the K.I.S.S.
 - #He was healed.
 - #He was brought to faith.
 - *"Now I know that there is no God in all the earth,"
 - + "Except in Israel."
 - Oh, the power of a K.I.S.S!
- B. God Gives Us That Same K.I.S.S.
- 1. Washing us in the waters of Holy Baptism.
 - a. In the name of the Father,
 - b. And of the Son,
 - c. And of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Waters of:
 - a. Cleansing.
 - b. New birth.
 - Not seven times.
 - But one time.
 - #God claims us. #God plants the seed of faith.
 - 3. Oh, the power of God's K.I.S.S.

III. Ten Lepers Received A K.I.S.S. (Luke 17: 11-19).

A. They Had Been Keeping Their Distance.

1. Their leprosy keeping them away from:
 - a. Home.
 - b. Family.
 - c. Jesus.
2. Jesus gave them a K.I.S.S.
 - a. Simple instructions.
 - Go and show themselves to the priests.
 - b. They did.
 - c. They were cleansed.
 - Cleansed/saved.
 - #Same word in Greek.
 - Free to go:
 - #Back home.
 - #Back to family.
 - #Back to Jesus.
 - Oh, the power of God's K.I.S.S.
3. Only one of the lepers returned the K.I.S.S.
 - a. Coming back to Jesus.
 - b. Praising God.
 - c. Worshiping.
 - d. Saying, "thank you."

B. Do We Return The K.I.S.S.?

1. Or do we continue to keep our distance?
 - a. Not wanting God to get too close to us.
 - b. Not wanting to get too close to God.
 - Lest God make a claim on our:
 - #Time.
 - #Talent.
 - #Treasure.
2. Yet God keeps K.I.S.S.ing us.
 - a. Even when we are:
 - Distant.
 - Faithless.
 - b. Waiting for those times when we will return the K.I.S.S.
 - My granddaughter Sophia is 5½ months old.
 - #I can kiss her.
 - *On the forehead.
 - *On the cheek.

#She doesn't really kiss back.
 *If I hold her face to my cheek.
 +She can slobber on me.
 +But she can't really kiss, yet.
 #But I'm going to keep kissing her.
 *In anticipation of the day when she can kiss back.
 -That's what God keeps doing with us.
 #K.I.S.S.ing us.
 *In water and the Word.
 *In bread and wine.
 +Mercy and love.
 +Faith and forgiveness.
 #In anticipation of the day when we K.I.S.S. back.

Concl: When I went through my dad's books a few weeks ago.
 -One of the books I claimed.
 #Book that's been around for about 25 years.
 *I had never read it.
 *I'm not sure my dad ever read it.
 +Spine of the book was still stiff when I got it.
 #*All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten.*
 *By Robert Fulghum.
 -Reading the dust jacket may be as good as reading the book.
 #Most of what I really need to know about how to live
 and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten.
 Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain,
 but there in the sandpile at Sunday school. These are the
 things I learned:
 *Share everything.
 *Play fair.
 *Don't hit people.
 *Put things back where you found them.
 *Clean up your mess.
 *Don't take things that aren't yours.
 *Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
 *Wash your hands before you eat.
 *Flush.
 *Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
 *Live a balanced life—learn some and think some
 and draw and paint and sing and dance and play
 and work every day some.
 *Take a nap every afternoon.
 *When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic,
 hold hands and stick together.
 *Be aware of wonder.

Be aware of the K.I.S.S.

-Keep It Simple, Silly.

-God's K.I.S.S.

#Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead.

#Be washed in the water.

#Don't forget to say "thank you."