

Integrity Matters Broadcast

"Character"

Question:

Does anybody do the right thing any more?

Response:

Yes, and a case in point relates to a police report coming from Texas. The woman who did the right thing will probably never receive public recognition, but her story is commendable and reassuring. Over and over, we remind our readers that character is what folks do when no one is watching. And, you can restore your confidence in the goodness of people when you learn of the decisiveness, courage and compassion of this young woman. She was driving early one morning, at the speed limit, about 65 miles per hour, only to catch in her rearview mirror the sight of two cars catching up to her rapidly. She recognized that the speeding vehicles were weaving close to one another and she became anxious. Noting the cars were side by side, one in her lane, she knew to move to the right to get out of the way. As the vehicles passed she observed the drivers screaming and gesturing crudely to one another.

Returning to her lane, and proceeding directly behind them, only seconds later, one car bumped the other hard enough to knock it sideways and then smash into it again creating a horrible out-of-control spin and crash. One car hurled crashing head on into the oncoming lane while the other driver sped away. Using her cell phone, the alert observer phoned emergency response professionals at 911 and then increased her speed until the other vehicle could be identified, including its license number. Returning to the scene of the accident, she saw police officers removing dead bodies; trying to reconstruct the accident. She was able to provide valuable information and learned later in the same day that the fleeing driver had been apprehended.

How many people would simply drive on? After all, who would know for certain who was there as a witness? Who would possibly question a person who simply stopped to wait for the police to arrive? Who expects modern-day drivers to place themselves at risk to gather information for those in law enforcement? Isn't that the job of police officers? In this instance, the ordinary citizen, a decent and caring young woman, accepted responsibility for making the world a better place and went the extra mile, in this case, probably several miles, at personal risk.

The lawbreaker (involved in a multiple homicide) is in custody. Whatever this individual says to explain the road-rage is simply unacceptable. Accidental murder with a motor vehicle is sickening. But intentional vehicular homicide is incomprehensible.

The good from this story is the integrity of one young woman. Her actions are a reminder to be responsive to the needs of others and a role model to do the right thing, even when no one is watching.

IF IT IS TO BE; (sometimes this is the truth) **IT IS UP TO ME; AND YES, YOU TOO.**

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