

DRIVEN

DRIVE-THRU DISCERNMENT Article 1.2

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LEARNING TO DRIVE

For me, learning to drive was very much a chore. All the studying, the class, the books, the test drives, the rules, the mechanics all gave me a headache!

My parents did not help any either. My mom would be in the front seat saying, "Now, now, the posted speed limit is 55 miles per hour. We want to go at least 5 miles slower than this for safety's sake."

My dad on the other hand would be yelling from the back seat, "HEY! Heck, the speed limit says 55, that means ya can drive at least 62 before they'll pull you over, speed up boy, SPEED UP!!"

DRIVING JESUS

One of the biggest mile markers in life is getting our drivers license. This is where we finally have some control.

Once the license comes, the next to follow is the keys. Since the beginning of time (or at least with the invention of doors), keys have been a symbol of authority and power. The only expectation is that we follow the posted signs and rules.

FOLLOWING STREET SIGNS

The American Dream points each of us in the direction to make as much money as possible, to have all the luxuries possible, and to be better than everyone else.

The Call of Christ is to *love*. To love is to follow the commandments, to love God, love each other, and to die to *Self*.

Which do we follow: The call of a dream of self-seeking, or the *call of love*? It is much easier to follow that of a dream. It is much more difficult to die to self to follow the path of love. What is the difference? What would change in our lives either way?

SPEEDING

Most of us hate back-seat drivers. We know how to drive; we don't need you to point out the obvious.

If Life were like a car, and everyone we knew were in the back seat screaming and telling us how to go in a million different directions: how would we get anywhere?! We end up turning up the radio too loud to hear anything, and just driving.

If our life is like a car, then Christ is the co-pilot. Most of us end up saying, "Oh no Jesus, *we* don't want to go down *that* street; *I* want to take *this* one." This route then ends up not working out as well as we hoped. This is how ambition plays in our life.

Ambition is like speeding, it is a self-seeking, self-focused drive to get to the finish line and succeed despite the cost. If we end up kicking everyone out of our "life car" or passing them by because of our ambition, we will end up by ourselves for eternity.

RUNNING OUT OF GAS

If we should not be ambitious, then we should just go to the other extreme and turn on our auto-pilot of apathy, right? Just go through the motions, just to get this trip over with; as if we just ran out of gas.

This is also a self-seeking end. Christ is not going to drive the car for us. He will give us directions, but we have to make the turns, accelerate/decelerate when necessary. This is where we find our balance: to be driven by motivation.

DRIVEN MOTIVATION

Motivation refers to a drive or inspiration that comes from outside of our self. It is not self serving, it serves the purpose of getting where Christ is calling us: to love.

May we pray for the Motivation to discern God's signs in our road to our call for life, for our understanding and our experience of love.

