

Recalculating

Recalculating is a term that I hear often when I am driving. It is what is said every time that I do not follow the directions given to me by my GPS.

Portable GPS systems are one of the greatest inventions of the twenty first century! Not only is it a great tool for any one that does even a moderate amount of driving. Not only does it tell how you how to get from point A to point B, it has points of interest, telephone numbers, and a variety of other features depending on the price that you pay for the unit.

One of the underappreciated benefits of having a GPS is its value in strengthening marriages. One of the recommendations that I make to young married couples is to purchase a GPS if they do not already have one. It is a given that men, during their course of driving, are going to get lost. It is also a given that since they are men, they will not stop and ask for directions. Despite knowing the way their husbands should go and ladies being more than willing to share this information with them, men are resistant to take their advice. Thus the tension begins. The GPS will help couples avoid this tension. Husbands will ignore the GPS instead of ignoring their well meaning wives. Which brings me back to the term, recalculating. This is what I hear when I ignore my GPS.

I do not use my GPS every day but I do use it quite often. I have chosen to use the voice of a British lady to give me my directions. I have chosen this voice because; (1) I like British accents and (2) it just seemed natural to receive driving directions from a woman (I will pay for that comment).

When I enter the address of the destination that I want to go, the GPS already has determined where I am, it looks at where I want to go and it determines the best route for me to get there. It will allow you to define certain parameters for your trip, fastest route or most direct route, for example. It will give you turn by turn directions until you get to your final destination. It is an amazing little tool.

Having lived in Miami for 25 years, I don't always agree with the route that the GPS has chosen for me to take. I may know of a quicker way or an easier way for me to get to my destination. When I stray from

the route that the GPS has chosen for me, I hear the term, "recalculating". It is trying to redirect me back to the route that it has determined for me to follow to get to my destination. It will continue to say "recalculating" at every street that you pass until you get back on the route that it has determined that is best for your journey.

I wonder as God looks at our lives, how many times during the day he says, "recalculating." He has given us a route to follow to get to our destination, a home with him. Yet, we still try to find a quicker way or an easier way to get to our destination.

Ephesians 5:1-2 says, "¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." God has determined our route, we just need to follow it.

One of the limitations of the GPS is that every now and then you get a message that says "no signal detected." That means you have strayed so far off the route that the GPS cannot find you so it is unable to direct you back to your path. God does not have that limitation. He can always find us and he will always direct us back to his path for us. No matter how many wrong turns we take, he is there saying, "recalculating".

Jeff