

## ***TAG! YOU'RE IT***

Tag is a game that most of us played when we were children. The person that was "it" would chase the other kids until they caught someone and upon touching them they would yell, "Tag! You're it." This scene repeated itself until recess was over or until mom called you in for dinner.

I remembered this game this morning in Bible class, for the most unlikely of reasons. This morning a young couple came into class and sat down a couple of rows in front of me. The wife was dressed in a very pretty Christmas dress. She looked very festive in the burgundy dress and everything was in place except for the tag that was sticking up above her collar.

Sitting on the pew directly behind the young couple was one of our dear, sweet senior saints. When she noticed the tag sticking up, she tapped the younger lady on the shoulder and informed her of the rouge tag's nonconformity and tucked the unruly tag back underneath the collar. Everything being corrected, the two ladies returned their attention back to the Bible class teacher.

I don't think that the two ladies were particularly close. In fact, I am not sure that, beyond an occasional "hello", they had any relationship at all. I realize that tucking a tag underneath a collar is not a major act of bravery but it did get me thinking.

The mature lady saw something about the younger lady that was out of place. It was something that might have detracted from the appearance that the younger lady had hoped to present to the world. Even though they were not friends, the mature lady had the courage to point out the flaw and help the younger lady resolve the issue.

With all the economic hardship and stress that is so prevalent today, I think about the times that I have seen my friends struggle with things in their life that detracted from the appearance that they hope to present to the world. Things like frustration, worry, disappointment, anger, greed and other sins that reveal that there is something out of place in their lives.

Did I have the courage to point out their flaws? Did I help them resolve their issues? These are not people that I know casually, these are my friends, people that I love. Do I have friends that love me

enough to have the courage to point out my flaws and help me resolve them?

The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart (*1 Samuel 13:13-14*). God loved David enough to send Nathan to expose his flaws: ***Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own.*** (*2 Samuel 12:9*). God also help David resolve his sins: ***Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."***

***Nathan replied, "The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.*** (*2 Samuel 12:13*).

So who helps our friends when things in their lives are out of place? Who points out their flaws and helps them resolve their issues? Did you feel someone touch you? Tag! You're it.

Jeff