

Dumb Laws for College Kids

Christ the Redeemer Church
September 13, 2009
Texas Wet Sunday/Cameron's Departure Sunday
15th Sunday after Pentecost

John 13:33-34
Rev Gary L. Smith
www.christredeemerchurch.com
www.DumbLaws.com

It seems like we keep saying Farewell to Cameron Dennis. He graduated from high school this year and finally he is going to leave us to move to Chicago tomorrow to begin studying Piano and Engineering at Northwestern University. Hope he learns to play the piano in college. Classes at Northwestern, based on a Quarter system, start this week. Just in time for winter in Chicago.

Actually he is going to be living and studying in Evanston, Illinois which is a suburb of Chicago.

Actually Cameron can already play the piano some. His piano teacher in Austin told Daniel this past week that Cameron is the #2 pianist in the nation for his age group. He played Carnegie Hall twice while he was in high school, played at the Kennedy Center in D.C. two years ago, has won piano competitions all over the U.S., has played in Europe on tour, and he has played with my cell phone also. Messed it up four years ago and I still can not get it to read right.

Daniel asked him if he realized he was the #2 pianist in the country. Cameron said he thought he was only #3. Engineers and musicians have such precise minds.

Lisa and Quin have given him roots here in San Marcos and in this church. Lisa and Quin helped start this church for their own two children, Cameron and Claire. Not many kids can claim that a church was started just for them. Quin and Lisa and many of us parents started this church *for* our kids and for other kids. Even older people whose kids were already grown or who did not have kids helped to start and fund this church...*for* kids. After giving Cameron roots, now Quin and Lisa give him wings to fly to Chicago tomorrow and go where none of us can go with him. To Evanston. And beyond.

Cameron met in Austin at his piano studio with some students from Northwestern University a few weeks ago. They filled him in on Evanston.

Did you know it is illegal to skip in the town of Evanston? Not skip classes. To skip period. It is illegal to skip down the streets in the town of Evanston.

It is illegal to bowl in the town of Evanston. No skipping and no bowling alleys are allowed there. People who skip and bowl are not the kind people wanted in that town.

It is going to be a tough life for Cameron up there. Some already want to know if he lives on a ranch in Texas, if he owns a horse, and what kind of gun he shoots.

Thinking about Cameron going out into a new world got me to thinking about what kind of other laws he needs to be aware of that are out there. Cameron, you could end up living anywhere so here are some laws you need to be aware of around the country.

1. In New Jersey and in Oregon it is illegal for a driver to pump their own gas. Reason was that at one time governments were scared of people handling flammable materials.
2. In Fairbanks, Alaska it is illegal to give a moose alcohol. It is also illegal for moose to mate on the streets. Hard to enforce some laws.
3. In Arkansas it is illegal to start or stop a car in front of a McDonalds. So some presidents took up jogging to McDonalds apparently.
4. An anti-crime law here in Texas requires criminals to give their victims advance notice, oral or written, in advance of the crime they are planning on committing and the nature of the crime.
5. In Louisiana you can go to jail for up to a year for making a false promise, including wedding vows.
6. In Oregon you can not test your physical endurance while driving a car.
7. An Owensboro, Kentucky woman can not buy a hat without her husband's permission.
8. Doughnut holes may not be sold in Lehigh, Nebraska out of loyalty to their favorite doughnuts.
9. New York residents may not greet one another by putting their thumb to their nose and wiggling their fingers.
10. In Waynesboro, Virginia it was once illegal for a woman to drive a car up Main Street unless her husband walks in front of the car waving a red flag.
11. It is mandatory in the state of Washington for a motorist with criminal intentions to stop at the city limits and phone the local chief of police before entering town.
12. In Arizona hunters were once expressly forbidden from going after camels. In the late 1800's camels were brought into the state to help haul freight and men.
13. One-armed piano players who perform in Iowa must do so for free.
14. In South Carolina you must be over the age of 18 to use a pinball machine.
15. Beavers in Michigan can be fined up to \$10,000 a day for building unlicensed dams.

16. In Alabama it is illegal to wear a funny fake mustache to church.
17. In New Hampshire, you may not tap your feet, nod your head, or in any way keep time with the music played in a tavern, restaurant, or café.
18. A person in Fargo, North Dakota may be jailed for wearing a hat while dancing or wearing a hat to an event where dancing is taking place.
19. Skunks may not be carried into the state of Tennessee.
20. No one may cross Minnesota state lines with a duck on top of their head.
21. In Ohio it is illegal to get a fish drunk.
22. In Denver, Colorado next door neighbors may not lend each other vacuum cleaners.
23. If an elephant is left tied to a parking meter in Florida, a parking fee must be paid. Circus elephants used to gather in Florida because the Ringling Brothers Circus Museum is in Florida.

Jesus said, "I will be with you a little while. Then where I am going you can not go right now. In the meantime, I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you."

Cameron, you are about to go out there and be on your own in a world with lots of odd rules and we can not go where you are about to go in life. It is your journey. But you learned some good rules here at home and here in this church. Hold onto them and remember where Home is in your heart. Home is where people are praying for you and for your choices and for your future. Home is where you were taught the really important rules of Life.

And the last one to remember in Chicago, Cameron:

24. Chicago forbids by law fishing while sitting on a giraffe's neck. Go figure.

Have a good flight. Watch out for elephants in Florida and giraffes in Chicago. See you at Thanksgiving and at Christmas!

Amen.