

Chaplains' Corner
By Chaplains Ron and Elana Peters of
East Bay Raceway Park in Tampa Florida

“Just One Little Rivet”

What would you say if a championship racer offered you his front running car for half the going price? Sounds great, doesn't it? It seemed like a dream come true to the young, upcoming driver. But, there was one little catch.

“I will sell you my car for half price on one condition,” explained the champion. “I'll own just one pop rivet in the entire car and use it at my discretion.”

The young driver thought to himself, “How bad is that? I can live with this guy owning just one pop rivet in the whole car. I'm getting a great deal here.” Proud of his amazing good fortune, he quickly purchased the car.

One day the champion came by and drove his pop rivet into the roll bar directly above the steering wheel. The young man smiled thinking how lucky he was. If that rivet made the champ happy, great, it was high and out of his way. No problem.

Just as the youngster got ready to run his first race the former owner came 'round and hung a set of tear offs on the pop rivet. They dangled and bobbed throughout the race. But, other than the mild annoyance, the young driver thought it wasn't so bad. He could overlook the movement above his head and still win if he would just concentrate harder.

The next week, just as the racer was about to head out onto the track the previous owner reached into the car and hung his helmet on the pop rivet. Even though the helmet swung back and forth menacingly through every turn and twist of the race the young racer managed to duck it and look around it. Though irritated, he'd still finished well in his high performance car.

But one night the champ hung his driver uniform on the pop rivet just as the race was about to begin. Now the young competitor could not see a thing past the uniform dangling directly in front of him. He stopped in his tracks seething with rage that he could not race even though he had the finest car in the world. At that point, the champ strolled over and easily bought the car back for ¼ its value.

The champ with the pop rivet illustrates what happens when a person tolerates just a little sin in his or her life. He's made a deal with the devil. At first, she hardly notices the hurt the sinful habit or behavior causes. Life is fun! But sin grows more ugly. We excuse and justify it. We try to live with it. But eventually we get to the point that the sin and the devil control us. The person's life is unmanageable and out of control. That person ends up the big loser.

There is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it leads to death. [Proverbs 14:12]

Our loving heavenly Father doesn't want this to happen to any of His children. He wants us to confess our sin and come to him with obedient hearts. Sin appears to be a cheap ticket to 'the good life.' But, the truly good and blessed life is full of God's spirit.

May God abundantly bless you,
Chaplains Natz and Elana Peters