**Sense of Humor**

**A sense of humor divides troubles, subtracts stresses, and multiplies opportunities; adds up, doesn't it? *(Steve Wilson)***

**Animals are capable of laughing and experiencing emotions, according to research by neuroscientist Jaak Panksepp of Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He says his team discovered that dogs, chimpanzees and rats all displayed forms of laughter and joy during play -- behavior earlier thought to be reserved for humans. Panksepp says that while adult rodents appear to not have a sense of humor, “young rats have a marvelous sense of fun.” He hopes his discovery will lead to more understanding of the evolution of human emotions and brain chemistry, as well as emotional problems such as autism and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders. *(Steve Newman, in Daily Camera)***

***Dean*: “Look, I didn’t mean to tease you, Heart. C’mon, tell me what you’re gonna ask Santa for.” Heart: “Sorry, Dean, it’s very personal.” Dean: “Oh, I get it. Time to re-stock the underpants department, eh?” Heart: “Might I suggest asking Santa for a sense of humor!” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City, comic strip)***

**Not being funny doesn't make you a bad person. Not having a sense of humor does. *(David Rakoff, author)***

**It is not true that banks have no sense of humor. After all, they are the ones who coined the phrase "easy payments." *(David Hart, in The Citizen)***

**On April 7, 1891, American showman P. T. Barnum died in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Though he was gravely ill, the 81-year-old showman’s sense of humor hadn’t deserted him. He requested that a New York paper run his obituary before he died so he could enjoy reading it, and the paper obliged. (MOMENTS IN TIME – The History Channel)**

**A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It’s jolted by every pebble in the road. (Henry Ward Beecher)**

**The word “laugh” appears for the first time in the Bible very early on, in Genesis 17:17. God informs the one-hundred-year-old Abraham that his ninety-year-old wife Sarah will give birth to a son. Recognizing a divine sense of humor, “Abraham bowed to the ground, and he laughed, thinking to himself, ‘Is a child to be born to a man one hundred years old, and will Sarah have a child at the age of ninety?’” God commanded Abraham to name his son “Isaac,” which in Hebrew means “God's laugh.” In Arabic, “ithaac” also means “he laughs.” (Cal Samra, in The Joyful Christ , p. 55)**

**Common senseand a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing. *(Clive James, critic)***

**There are many different senses of humor. It's different jokes for different folks. *(Joel Goodman)***

**Nothing makes your sense of humor disappear faster than having somebody ask where it is. (*Ivern Ball, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**When you say a person has a sense of humor, do you mean that he makes you laugh or that you can make him laugh? *(Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)***

**My Grandmother MacDonald had it right 40 years ago when she told me, “If you don t have a sense of humor, you probably don’t have any sense at all. *(Metcalf / Felible, in Readers Digest)***

**A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**The movie “Fiddler on the Roof” provides another example of people being able to laugh at life, despite the terrible plight of being unwanted by their neighbors. One of the characters, Tevye, when asked why he always wears his cap (a requirement of his Jewish faith), replies by saying, “Because someone is always asking us to move.” A sense of humor is no small ingredient in our efforts to rescue dividends from the jaws of defeat. *(Dr. Charles Dickson, in New Realities magazine)***

**Charles Fillmore was a born storyteller and he loved to inject humor into his sermons. He had the gift of all natural speakers to sense the moods of an audience; he could tell when the people were getting restless and he knew when to inject a story. “I do not mind your looking at your watches,” he told his audience, “but when you look at them, then put them to your ear to see if they are running, that is too much.” *(James Dillet Freeman, in The Story of Unity, p. 143)***

**From an early age, we are taught God watches us, leads us, nurtures us, guides us and cherishes us. What you then learn in the adventures to follow is that He must have one whale of a sense of humor, too. He'd have to. Otherwise, after watching us all day, all He'd be able to do is sit around at night and cry. (Bill Flick)**

**Grandma: “Do you think God has a sense of humor?” Grandpa: “I think it's pretty obvious that he does. Why else would He make it so that the more hair I lose off the top of my head, the more grows in my nose?” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**I think we're finally at a point where we've learned to see death with a sense of humor. I have to. When you're my age, it's as if you're a car. First a tire blows, and you get that fixed. Then a headlight goes, and you get that fixed. And then one day, you drive into a shop, and the man says, “Sorry, Miss, they don't have this make anymore.” *(Katharine Hepburn)***

**As Rose's Mom tries to fill up the swimming pool with a hose that squirts out all over the place, Rose says to her: “Old hoses have a good sense of humor!” *(Pat Brady, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**Imagination was given to us to compensate for what we are not; a sense of humor was provided to console us for what we are. *(Mack McGinnis)***

**Do you know what Jesus said to his disciples just before he broke bread at the Last Supper? “If you want to get in the picture you’re going to have to get on this side of the table.” (The Greater Joining)**

**Abraham Lincoln kept his sense of humor in defeat, which made him seem undefeated and, in a way, unbeatable. After he lost to Stephen A. Douglas in the Illinois Senate race in 1858, Lincoln was asked how he felt about this setback. He answered, "I feel somewhat like the boy in Kentucky who stubbed his toe while running to see his sweetheart. The boy said he was too big to cry, and far too badly hurt to laugh." Despite this defeat, Lincoln refused to lower his aspirations. "I have an abiding faith," he wrote to an old friend on December 12, 1858, "that we shall beat them in the long run." Two years later, Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States. *(The Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, p. 55)***

**Friend, make 20 copies of this cartoon and send them to 20 friends, do not break this chain. A woman in Bayonne broke the chain, and the next day she lost her sense of humor. *(Gary Wise & Lance Aldrich, in Real Life Adventures comic strip)***

**A sense of humor is a measurement of the extent to which we realize that we are trapped in a world almost totally devoid of reason. *(Dave Berry)***

**If I could change one thing about the first 17 years of parenting, I would have laughed more with the kids. I would have been less of a proper parent and more of a funny parent. When I messed up most, it wasn't when I was gone. It was when I was there but I had no sense of humor. *(Mary Loverde, in Stop Screaming at the Microwave!)***

**Pope John XXIII was a kind man with a marvelous sense of humor. Someone once asked him how many people worked at the Vatican. "Half of them," he said. *(Theodore M. Hesburgh, in God, Country, Notre Dame)***

**Both John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan have been renowned for their abilities in this area. Once when asked how he became a war hero, President Kennedy replied, “It was involuntary. They sank my boat.” In a speech to a group of doctors, President Reagan was paying tribute to advances in medicine during his lifetime. “I've already lived some 23 years beyond my life expectancy when I was born -- and that's a source of great annoyance to a number of people.” (Ailes/Kraushar, in Reader's Digest)**

**Albert Schweitzer, who personified the philosophy of reverence for life, knew that daily existence for young doctors and nurses was not easy at the hospital in Lambarene, Gabon, and gave himself the task of supplying nutrients for their spirits. At mealtime, when the staff came together, Dr. Schweitzer always had an amusing story or two to go with the meal. Once he reported to the group, “As everybody knows, there are only two automobiles within 75 miles of the hospital. Today, the inevitable happened: the cars collided. We’ve treated the drivers for superficial wounds. Anyone who has reverence for machines may treat the cars.” *(Norman Cousins, in Anatomy of an Illness)***

**Jerry Seinfeld, star of the hit TV comedy “Seinfeld,” still carries on a romance with his roots as a stand-up comic. “I'm really attracted to tension,” he explains. “Maybe that’s one of the reasons I became a stand-up comedian. When you walk on that stage, there is a palpable tension. If you defuse that, then it's just a wonderful release.” Seinfeld continues to practice stand-up. “Two or three times a week, I go to a local comedy club, get up onstage and try to work out my routines. They tell me things about myself. If I'm getting too big a head or if I'm too confident, the audience picks it up and I can feel it in the laughs.” (The Barbara Walters Special)**

**Our five senses are incomplete without the sixth: a sense of humor. (William Arthur Ward)**

**A sense of humor will help take the bite out of whatever's eating you. *(Steve Wilson)***

**A true sense of humor – specifically including a sense of humor about oneself – is not merely a fringe benefit or a nice add-on in a person aspiring to hold high public office. It is a pretty reliable indicator that its proprietor knows what is serious because he or she knows what’s funny. It is a precondition of true sympathy and compassion for one’s fellow creatures – as distinct from political-platform “sympathy” and “compassion,” which so often come from the costume-retail store. (Meg Greenfield, in Newsweek)**

**The ultimate test of whether you possess a sense of humor is your reaction when someone tells you you don’t. (Frank Tyger, in The Wall Street Journal)**

**Over the years, I have encountered a surprising number of instances in which, to all appearances, patients have laughed themselves back to health, or at least have used their sense of humor as a very positive and adaptive response to their illness. (Raymond A. Moody)**

**A sense of humor is what makes you laugh at something which would make you mad if it happened to you. (Bits & Pieces)**

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