

I want to share a few things about Norm Geisler that some people do not know about him.

His generosity. When I wrecked my car, he somehow heard about it and called me the next day to loan me a car--after I had already destroyed one. Others have told me of his selfless service to them when they were in distress or need.

His humility. I have observed this in truly great men. When we were at McKee Road the church loaned us their storage shed for library overflow. One Saturday your father and I were in the dirt under the shed installing beams to support the weight of books. Then he said, "You get the materials and you and I will build handicap access to the building." When we moved to Tilley Morris, he was there early mornings with wheelbarrow and shovel working on the grounds. This he did without recognition. Then he would go home to write before others arrived for the regular work day. I know he enjoyed physical labor, but as busy as he was, he had every excuse to avoid menial tasks. When extra help was needed, he was the first to show up.

His compassion. When my wife was in recovery from sepsis, he was her most frequent visitor. An elderly lady told me that when her husband died, she had no idea what to do, and in distress she dared to call Dr. Geisler, with whom she had a bare acquaintance. He said, "Barb and I will come right over." He took care of everything, made all the necessary arrangements, preached the service, and would accept no money.

Our close relationship over 21 years has deepened my respect for this man, whom I knew as courageous and valiant, willing to stand alone, if necessary, in the battle for truth, a very gifted intellectual giant who was able to communicate complex philosophical and deep theological concepts clearly and concisely to both seminary students and Sunday school students. The breadth and depth of his knowledge was awesome.

He truly endeavored to do right in the sight of God and to serve others. One of his best qualities was love. When confronting error, he always did so in the hope of directing his opponent to Christ. He won the respect of an atheist whose book he reviewed, leading to personal phone calls. Closer to home I could see his tenderness with his grandchildren.

It has been my great privilege to call him friend.

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