

Joe Donahue
For September 13, 2017
Road Rage

Hi, I'm Joe Donahue with a comment for Brookings-Harbor Voices:

On Sunday I was out jogging toward Harris Beach and went by an example of outrageous road rage. A male driver had literally ran a woman driver to the side of the road, gotten out of his vehicle and was deriding her in a very loud and obnoxious way. I did not stop as I heard him say "I'm calling the police too." I hope the police got there timely. The woman driver may have done very bad, poor, illegal driving – I do not know. I do know the anger and language used by the male was inappropriate and would not have been acceptable to anyone.

We all experience moments of anger or frustration as we drive. It is important that we are alert and expect other drivers to do the unexpected. How do you the listeners react to seeing or experiencing road rage? What can we do to control it? Maybe I should have stopped and yelled at or physically attacked the man I witnessed. He was bigger and heavier than me, and maybe carried a gun or knife he might have used in anger. Clearly, confrontation of others is a questionable course of action.

However, the one person we can, or at least should control is our self. So, how do we do that? First, look at our own behavior when driving. Did we cut in front of someone too closely? Did we ride their bumper because they were only going the speed limit? Did we miss seeing someone in our blind spot? Once we are sure we are without sin we can think of throwing that first stone. Count to ten-maybe backward. Take a deep breath or more than one. THINK! Say a prayer, for the other driver as well as ourselves. Whatever you choose to do, do not let road rage be in control.

Please drive with love and patience!

Thanks for listening.