

Whatever

I love this word,
I use it to dismiss, disrespect, discount,
To indicate disinterest, to fill verbal space,
To show that I am through listening,
Or that you are simply sharing too much information.

Whatever . . .

Rolls off the tongue with a sneer or a smile,
It may be said quietly, abruptly, haughtily, or teasingly.
It might even become two distinctly connected words:

What ever

Just ask Jennie (my wife) how much I like this word.
She, by the way, is not so much in favor of it,
Probably due to the frequency I use it,
Not to mention my tone of voice.

Whatever

We discharge with this term,
Whether a person or an idea, an activity or a relationship,
“Whatever” marks an end.

So, it is striking to my ear
And the way I use “whatever”
whenever I hear Paul’s use of it
In the letter to the Philippians (4:8):

*whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is pleasing,
whatever is commendable*

Here much makes life worth living is included!

Paul’s “Whatever” includes who I am and what I do,
Includes the choices I make, the relationships I am in,
Includes my truth, my honor, and most everything in between.

That’s the way Paul uses it,
Inviting me to see whatever there is to see and be
In Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit make this so!

Gather, friends, once again to love God and neighbor:

Sundays with **Grace University Lutheran Church at 8:30 or 10:30 AM and/or 6:30 PM.**
University Lutheran Church of Hope at 8:30 and 10:30 AM
Trinity Lutheran Church (at Augustana’s Chapel) at 8:45 or 11 AM.

Peace, friends

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