

There's an old saying in
photographic circles
“The best camera is the one you
have with you”

Ok, I could just stop right there, lesson over!

But seriously, that is the main issue, having a camera when a moment worth preserving happens. (Subtitle: Don't overthink it!) My 'favorite' camera is an absolutely awesome Canon point and shoot because I can put it in my pocket!

Let's get into the weeds a little bit...

First, smartphones. These things are just flat out amazing awesome! They have removed ALL the mystery and romanticism (was there ever really any?) for getting a well exposed image. If you are old enough to remember, just getting a well exposed image was THE holy grail back in the film days. So much so that people would often give up in frustration at the difficulty. In fact, professional photography had a lot higher barrier to entry because of just this.

I'd venture to guess that smartphones will do for 80% of the photographic chores you have as a non-professional. (But, PRINT those images darn it! See Cafe #2)

Next, you have a question, do you actually need better image quality than a smartphone if you are capturing the image yourself? If the answer is no, well, have another pastry, you made it easy for me!

For those of you who want more, you are probably an amateur photographer at heart so, enjoy the process!

The key here is that last phrase, "...enjoy the process" In photography in 2016, honestly, the 'process' is an infinite pursuit. No, seriously, there is no end to it.

Why am I emphasizing this point? Simple, if you want to go beyond the phenomenal automatic small cameras and smartphones you have to look in the mirror and embrace the fact that you are an amateur photographer and enjoy the ride. (and the expense!)

At this point, the internet will draw you in like a black hole for information about education and equipment.

My best advice if you are at this point is to give you my viewpoint on equipment as a professional:

IT BORES ME!

No, really, it is about as exciting to me as buying a new screwdriver at the hardware store because I don't really care about the tools, I care about having amazing portraits to present to my clients!

Try and keep your eyes on the prize - the images that you capture. Everything else is just process.

