

Trinity News

Pentecost 19 The Saviour Who Relates to All of Us Every Day

There is more hidden in God than we know, and there is more hidden in ourselves and our relationships than we know.

The Scriptures reveal the secret life of God and the secrets of the human soul and declare that both are linked and revealed more deeply in the person called Jesus of Nazareth.

Being made a "little lower" than the Divine Society - *Elohim* for God is a plural - and "crowned with glory and honour" (Psalm 8: 5) implies that connection.

Jesus observes in his teaching about marriage at Mark 10:2-12 that marriage is a one-flesh relationship that mirrors the one-flesh creation storyline in Genesis. The surface meaning of the text is that marriage recreates the one-flesh linkage of the participants in marriage for the purpose of re-creation. But even in the Creation story the primal pair conceal things from God and one another. So much is hidden behind domestic walls and closed inner histories. All relationships have hidden safe places that it would be unwise to enter too readily. We are properly sensitive of our most intimate relationships and we are often very defensive about it in the actual relationship.

The Filipino Bamboo Creation Story has the man and the woman created from both sides of the bamboo stem. This is very close to the Genesis story. Robert Alter, one of our finest Hebrew scholars outside the Jewish heart-language renditions, shows us on the basis of the Hebrew text a model of Adam and Eve being created side by side, facing the future together. It is a wonderful picture of connection and openness to the future together. We all need a common dream in any real relationship.

Rules about relationships, whether in the Garden of Eden or now, often ignore the finer points of human sensitivities that cry out for expression. They often lie dormant, though not forgotten. Tenderness, truthfulness sheathed in love, and tenacity in preserving deep links of feeling and care are the hallmarks of a lasting friendship or union. Love without friendship does not last. Being close up on a daily basis with another person can cloud our perspective and block us from seeing the bigger picture. Patient and sensitive observation and clearly evident care are always necessary to preserve sound relationships.

Moses' Bill of Divorcement that Christ refers to in our gospel text was used improperly to get rid of unwanted women but not for unwanted men. We are meant to be "crowned with glory and honour." But our imperfect relationships demonstrate that we "have fallen short of the glory of God." We do not need the Apostle Paul to remind us of it. We know it already.

One of the huge assurances of the Christian faith is Christ's passionate interest in relationships. His tender care for our relationships with him, with God, and with ourselves and each other reminds us every day of the relational love of God. The next person you meet is an opportunity to be an instrument of Christ's ministry in "lifting up the hearts" of people. It already applies to those who are within our immediate heart circle.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible study, 10:00am.
- Group Discussion, 7:30pm, Parish Office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Amos 5:6-7,10-15; Psalm 90; Hebrews 3:1-6; Mark 10:17-27
