

Holy Trinity

June 7, 2020

I think it's fair to say that most people like to solve problems. Something is satisfying about doing a crossword puzzle or finding the solution to a sudoku. More practically, it feels good to solve the problem of the leaky faucet, the slow computer, or the lawnmower that will not start. Think about how many people are working right now to solve the problem of the covid19 virus. And it will be solved because human beings are quite good at solving problems. We're also quite good at creating problems, but that's a topic for another day. But, this ability to solve problems is probably not the best way to see The Holy Trinity. The idea of a Holy Trinity is not the solution to the problem of God's identity. God is not a problem to be solved. God can and wants to be known by us. Yet, at some level, God will always remain a mystery and unknowable until we are fully redeemed and in heaven.

Still, it is important for us to know whatever we can about the nature of God because, according to scripture, we have been made in the image and likeness of God. But the likeness we bear is not physical; it is spiritual. So, we don't have hands and feet because God does. We have a soul, and it is in the soul that we bear the likeness of God.

Although the word "Trinity" is not found in scripture, the God that word accurately describes is found quite often in the Bible. So, today's scriptures tell us something about the nature of God and its implications for our lives. Our first reading tells us that God is merciful, slow to get angry, and rich in kindness and fidelity. Since we are made in God's likeness, then we are called to be merciful people and slow to get angry because it's the God-like thing to do, the soulful thing to do. In today's second reading, St. Paul tells us how to build a Godly, soulful community. We are to encourage one another, striving to live in peace, mending our ways, and trying to live in harmony with each other. And the Gospel reminds us that God loves the world and sent Jesus not to condemn but to transform us by our living in a more Christ-like, soulful life. Indicating the way to do that, Jesus once prayed: "Father, may they be one, even as we are one."

The ideal that St. Paul preached, to have people living in peace, harmony, equality, and love, is always a great challenge. Recently, the unjust treatment and death of George Floyd in Minnesota on May 25, plainly shows how hard it can be

to live up to St. Paul's ideal. For three months, we have dealt with the physical sickness of covid19, as we should have. Mr. Floyd's death is a symptom of another kind of sickness, not of the body but the soul. Our own personal souls and the soul of our nation may require a serious attitude adjustment and realignment to be more in tune with what we know about God. God loves us, all of us, and wants us to return His love, not only by going to church but also by loving each other, which includes compassion and justice. Christ was sent to help us do that. But our behavior will only reflect the life and love of the Holy Trinity when the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, guide our every word and action.

Fr. Valentine

Scripture Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/060720.cfm>