

This morning I have a theory that I would like to test out. It involves a few questions.

What do we know about each other.?

Our knowledge of each other is based mostly on what we hear from others about them. Some based on our willingness to enter into conversation. Other because we have been brought together to spend significant time developing a relationship.

Similarly we could ask? What do we know about God?

Our knowledge is based mostly on hearsay or what other experience of God. Some are based on our willingness to talk with God trusting in God's interest in hearing us. Others because we have been brought together to spend significant amount of time developing a relationship with God.

How do we handle love in our relationship? When someone reaches out and tells us that they love us? What do we do? Do we become frightened by what this might exact from us? Do we question ...oh God if they only knew the real me... would they love me then? OR do we explore our own hearts and see if we indeed want to reciprocate that love.

How do we handle the love God has for us? Do we wallow in our unworthiness? Or do we pretend to be about so much other more important things that we press the delay button for God. Or do we explore our hearts and see how might we want to respond to that love.

My theory therefore is that there is a direct correlation of how we relate to each other and how we relate to God.

Today in the Episcopal Church we celebrate Trinity Sunday. It is the one time of the year when we focus on a doctrine of the church. The term Trinity was first used in Greek by Theophilus of Antioch. Although the word does not appear in scripture the concept surely does as God is revealed throughout scripture as Father, Creator, Son, Redeemer, Spirit Sustainer.

As Episcopalians we claim to pray what we believe and so one would then be led to believe that we are Trinitarian through and through. Consider how often we invoke the Trinity in our normal Sunday Eucharist.

Introductory Sentence, Prayer of Cleansing, Gloria, The Collects, The Creed, Absolution, Eucharistic Prayer, The Preface, The Institution Narrative, The Anamnesis, The Epiclesis of the Holy Spirit, Petitions, Doxology, Post Communion Prayer and Blessing.

We are thus a Trinitarian Community....yet are we truly aware of this expression of God in our lives.

Many of us limit God's expression to one of the three. Some look around at creation and reflect on the power and incredible and wonderful act that God takes in creating heaven and earth...

Some of us limit our recognition of God to Jesus. He is the way the truth and the life ... his life, death and resurrection. The love he showed for us on the cross remains the center point of our faith.

Some become driven by the Spirit of God, they are all about experiencing God's spirit present and felt in the everyday experiences of life.

At different moments one or the other expression of God may take prominence in our lives.

The beauty of the Trinity is that when you experience one you experience them all. For God is united in love.

It is in this very act of loving that we come to know God.

We have become so fixed on our interpretation of God as a white man with a long white beard, and Jesus as a handsome blond haired blue eyed guy with a British accent and the Spirit as flapping winged bird.

We are invited to stretch our stereotypical understandings of God to deepen our awareness, to break out of our comfortable notions of God and try to deepen our love for God in mystery.

If you have not read the book *The Shack* I urge you to do so. It is indeed a book of fiction but what it invites the reader to do is expand one's perceptions of God.

The beauty of the book is that it reflects on the inner dynamic relationship between Father Son and Spirit in a way that is truly inspiring.

Without giving away the plot the character in the book encounters God in Trinity.

God is revealed as Papa an African American woman

Jesus is revealed as a handy man

The Holy Spirit as some Asian mystical figure

As the character in the book steps back upon first encountering the Trinity he asks Are there more of you? The three looked at each other and laughed. Then Papa spoke chuckling. We is all that you get, and believe me we're more than enough."