



Grow. Pray. Serve.

February 19, 2017

Divine Envelopes

1. Important to remember that Christianity, like other faith traditions, has been used to create great harm and pain. Treatment of heretics. Burning people at the stake.
2. Do we metaphorically burn people at the stake with our words, thoughts, or actions?
3. Many of us have groups of people we want nothing to do with and/or are unwilling to listen to. None of this means we should not have convictions or strongly held beliefs or that people should not be held accountable for behavior.
4. 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
 - a. Paul reminds people to build churches on the foundation of Jesus, to be humble, to avoid being too certain about too many things.
 - b. A church is not a building but a gathering of believers. Collectively the spirit of God is within congregants.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 6. The Spirit of God is within every person. We are bearers of the Holy. Others, too, bear the Holy even if they don't know it or care about it or are not acting like it.
5. Acts chapter 9
 - a. Paul was a very cruel man. Jesus confronted him and Paul lost his sight. 3 days later God asked a believer named Ananias to go to Paul and bring about the restoration of his vision. Ananias wanted nothing to do with Paul because of his history. God reminds Paul that he has plans for Paul. In essence, God's spirit is already within Paul and Ananias needs to play a role in helping Paul know it.
6. Divine Envelopes
 - a. Slightly adapted, Byron Sherwin writes: "The divine is incarnated in each human being. Each person is an envelope bearing the divine presence...each person bears a divine stamp and should be regarded as sacred. Each person bears awesome responsibility since his or her daily actions have an effect on the well-being of the entire world."
 - b. What might it be like if we viewed all other people as envelopes bearing the divine? How am I going to treat the temple of God standing before me even if s/he is tarnished, vile, hostile, or foul because s/he does not know who it is that is living within? How I am going to open up the envelope standing in front of me so that s/he will discover the divine that has been there all along?
 - c. Great reminder that our walk with Jesus isn't always easy, comforting, or comfortable, but then again, neither is the work of love.

Today's Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 3:10-23 (The Message)

10-15 Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ. Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing. If your work passes inspection, fine; if it doesn't, your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But *you* won't be torn out; you'll survive—but just barely.

16-17 You realize, don't you, that you are the temple of God, and God himself is present in you? No one will get by with vandalizing God's temple, you can be sure of that. God's temple is sacred—and you, remember, *are* the temple.

18-20 Don't fool yourself. Don't think that you can be wise merely by being up-to-date with the times. Be God's fool—that's the path to true wisdom. What the world calls smart, God calls stupid. It's written in Scripture,

He exposes the chicanery of the chic.

The Master sees through the smoke screens
of the know-it-alls.

21-23 I don't want to hear any of you bragging about yourself or anyone else. Everything is already yours as a gift—Paul, Apollos, Peter, the world, life, death, the present, the future—all of it is yours, and you are privileged to be in union with Christ, who is in union with God.



Snowmass Chapel

5307 Owl Creek Road, PO Box 17169, Snowmass Village, CO 81615
www.snowmasschapel.org