

Dear People Whom God Loves,

**TO BE IS
TO BE RELATED**

To be is to be related, I think that both the Scientific Story and the Christian Story tell us this. The question facing us is this: Will a relationship of war and hate or a relationship of peace and love prevail?

The Scientific Story tells us that a tiny speck exploded about 13.7 billion years ago. This eventually made stars which in turn made carbon, oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen. Some stars exploded into a supernova. Eventually, in our part of the universe, the Milky Way and our sun and earth were formed. Our earth acquired water and atmosphere, and next came the chemistry necessary for the primitive life form itself about 3.5 billion years ago. Cellular organisms with nuclei followed, then worms, fish, land plants, insects and amphibians, trees, dinosaurs, mammals, birds and flowers, then hominids. Our modern homo sapiens then arrived.

This is an incomplete summary of our evolution, but enough to make us aware that we are not just individuals, but related to and dependent on many creatures as well as on other humans.

This leads me to believe that since we are all so interwoven, with humans and with all of creation, that if we insist on war and hate, we will eventually destroy ourselves. Also, if we do not care for our earth we will destroy ourselves.

We now turn to the Christian Story. The Christian Story tells us that God is love. It also tells us about the Holy Spirit. This doctrine teaches us that God is the circulating love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that to be God is to be in relationship. God is loving relationship.

The doctrine of creation tells us that the universe has come from God and that we humans are made in the image and likeness of God. Hence our destiny is to be lovers. Until we are lovers we will never be fulfilled, we will never be happy.

When we knowingly and willingly choose to act unlovingly to others and/or ourselves, we call it sin. When we think of sin in this way, we can see why sin is destructive. It is contrary to who and what God is and who and what we are. Sin is contrary to the reality that has come from God. "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good." (Gen. 1-3a)

Since all creatures (both those with life and those who are not living) are called good by God, we may not use them in ways that serve only our selfish wants.

When we look at us humans and see the strong but good human energies and drives we call capital sins (they are not sins, but we can use them badly) and the cultures that pull us toward choosing sin, we could easily despair and give up hope that we could ever find peace and happiness. When we see the hate and destruction around our world, it could easily seem impossible that we humans could ever make it okay. That is why we need to be saved. It is too much for human power alone.

That is why God comes into this one man Jesus and in Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Jesus lives and embraces all the human emotions, trials, joys, sufferings that are possible for humans.

This is why God chooses to save us. I do believe that God "suffers" too. We don't have words to express what goes on in God. When we love someone their pain hurts us too. That is why I believe that something goes on in God, even though I don't know what it is. God is a lover.

It's been 2000 years since Jesus lived in our world, and the world still doesn't look very good. However, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and guide us and become our co-worker in the works of salvation. That is the mission of our church. We are that when we are lovers. I also believe that God welcomes all lovers across the world. The Holy Spirit will be with us until the end of time when all will be well, all will be love. The Infinite Love and we little loves will not be merged, but astonishingly close.

Smile, God loves you,
Father Clay