

Scriptures and Quotes-Sunday, September 24, 2017-“Dancing with Life”- Michael Hidalgo, Both Locations

John 1.1-4

Genesis 1.1,2

I'm convinced that beneath the ugly manifestations of our present evils – political corruption, ecological devastation, warring against one another, hating each other based on race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation – the greatest dis-ease facing humanity right now is our profound and painful sense of disconnection. Disconnection from God, certainly, but also from ourselves, from each other, and from our world. Richard Rohr and Mike Morrell, *The Divine Dance*, p 39

We have become a very shallow nation, flattened out by the forces of consumerism, internet technology, and mass media. We are a culture defined in terms of wealth rather than personal significance. People are objects or commodities rather than living beings in relationship ... Based on unrelieved competition, the consumer society is a training ground which educates us to a life of fragmented relatedness ... We are defined by what we buy rather than what we are ... Our self-identity is wrapped up in our possessions. Consumer culture has pulverized the human person into data, resulting in a culture of depersonalization ... Indeed, persons do not count unless they are certain kinds of persons ... Jesus did not try to fit in to his culture; he challenged its core values and turned the tables in the temple upside down. His was not a message of looking out for number one; rather it was a call to a new type of community where care for one another unifies and strengthens the whole. The Gospel of Jesus is about transforming partial lives into greater wholes, but to do so requires death to the partial, isolated self, and life in communion with others. - Ilia Delio, “Waiting in an Unfinished Universe”

Because the Christian God is not a lonely God, but rather a communion of three persons, faith leads human beings into the divine communion. One cannot, however, have a self-enclosed communion with the triune God for the Christian God is not a private deity. Communion with this God is at once also communion with those others who have entrusted themselves in faith to the same God. Hence one and the same act of faith places a person into a new relationship both with God and with all others who stand in communion with God. - Miroslav Volf, *After Our Likeness*, p 173

The greatest need of our time is for koinonia, the call to simply be the church - to love one another and to offer our life for the sake of the world. The creation of living, breathing, loving communities of faith at the local church level is the foundation of all the other answers. It is the ongoing life of a community of faith that issues a basic challenge to the world as it is and offers a visible and concrete alternative. The church must be called to be the church, to rebuild the kind of community that gives substance to the claims of faith. - Jim Wallis, *The Call to Conversion*, p 112