

The Most Holy Trinity
June 4, 2023
“Relationships and Love”

Ex 34:4...9
II Cor 13:11-13
Jn 3:16-18

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

We were made for relationships. We were created to be in interaction with others. No person can be an island of isolation. To cut ourselves off from others soon results in serious problems for the human spirit.

We were made for love. Consequently, we all need to love and to be loved.

Marriages succeed because spouses love each other despite hardships and disagreements. Children need the love of their parents to become whole and mature human beings. And our relationship with God survives and grows only if we love God – and behave accordingly. This means that we must live as God intended us to live when He created us!

To be successful in our relationship with God – we must put Him first. God has loved us into life – Therefore, we must respond by living lives of authentic love in return.

The Chosen People failed in their love for God. When Moses spent 40 days on the mountain, the people became disenchanted and reverted to pagan ways. They made a golden bull-calf to be their god and joined in pagan revelry.

Then, although God wanted to let them self-destruct, Moses intervened and dissuaded Him. Furthermore, God revealed some wonderful things about Himself. God was the “Lord”. He was the “Lord” of all people and of all things. But He was also “gracious and merciful”. He was “slow to anger” – He was “rich in kindness and fidelity”. God would always be faithful to His promises. But people would have to repent and change their lives. They would have to turn self-love into love for God and for everyone else!

St. John's Gospel reveals the extent, and the depth, of God's love for us and for the world He created. Out of love for us, God sent His Son to teach us how to live a life of love. Jesus taught us how to love God – and how to love one another. Jesus broke down and destroyed the alienation that comes from the isolation of self-love. Because that is what self-love always does. It alienates and isolates us from others and from God in countless ways. Self-love destroys relationships. It keeps us from seeing the harm we do to others when we hurt them with our sinful behavior – our un-godlike behavior!

John's Gospel goes on to teach us that if we believe in Jesus – we will not be condemned. However, this belief is demonstrated in the relationship we have with Jesus. It is a relationship of love that follows his Gospel and keeps his Great Commandment. That Commandment is to love others – just as he, Jesus – loves us.

Those who do not believe in Jesus will be condemned because they failed in their relationship of love. They failed to know Jesus. They failed to know about and live by his Great Commandment of Love!

St. Paul takes up the theme of loving relationships when he tells us to rejoice – to be truly grateful in love! Indeed, we must be grateful for all that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit continue to do for us!

Consequently, we must, continually, “mend our ways”. We must encourage one another on our mutual journey. We must learn to agree by making compromises. And we must learn to live with peace toward others.

Brothers and Sisters, all of the foregoing presumes that we cannot – we must not – live lives of isolation. God, Himself, does not exist in isolation. Without beginning or end, God is a Trinity of Life and Love – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

And so, may “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” be with all of us –
now and forever!

Amen.