

The Question of the Week

“For God so loved the world that He gave his Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

John 3: 16

“For God so loved the world...” I love the ring of that phrase. I love the way it is so succinctly stated. It is not just that God loved the world. It is that God loved the world so much. So much that He did something radical, something way over the top, something unique. He sent his beloved Son. Not just to visit. Not just to be with us. To become one of us. To become one with us. To live our life and even to die our death. Why would the Son of the Living One ever want to allow his most prized relationship to be put at risk to death itself? Even more, to be surrendered into the heart of darkness, the evil that has been visited upon our world first from the fallen angels who rebelled against God’s way of humble love? And also from the evil that we human beings have unleashed in the world because we chose to live selfishly, mindlessly, arrogantly, without care for the other, without care for ourselves even, without care for the Living God who has given us life and freedom and an invitation to eternal life?

God sent His Son. Precisely because He loves. God sent his best because that is who God is—always and forever. No matter what response is received by God from his creatures endowed with freedom, God is ever faithful and God is always truth. Why would God do this? Is this the only way we could be rescued, redeemed, saved? There was a saintly bishop named Melito of Sardis who answered that question.

“Having (taken) then a body (through incarnation) capable of suffering. He took the pain of fallen man upon himself. He triumphed over diseases of soul and body which were its cause, and by his Spirit, which was incapable of dying, he dealt man’s destroyer, Death, a fatal blow.” Death is the worst thing that the enemy can do to us. Rob us of life. Especially in horrific ways. So bad that we will question whether there really is a loving God who would allow such things. But that death blow is not the final word. No, the final word is “He lives!” And we live—with Him! The Father loves and sends his Son who is also love and together they unleash their Spirit which is also Love. Love Given. Love received. Love in unity. Father. Son. Holy Spirit. Three persons. Equal in stature. All true God. All truly one. Yet not the same. Each unique and yet intertwined in the best possible way. A community of persons bound together by love. In other words—a family. God is family. God is the original family.

I am blessed to know all of this. It helps me to know what this life is about and how to live in this world. The Trinity. It has been revealed to us so that we might know. It is not so far beyond us that we cannot grasp—just a little—that we each come from family and are destined for family and are to live as family in this life. The Trinity is why. Did you know that? That is the question of the week.