

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

**Created—and being recreated—in the image of God      -Pastor Hank French**

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*

This is a hopeful text for less than perfect humans—and that would include all of us. No exceptions.

According to Genesis, we were all born in the image of God: “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). But here’s the thing; we were all born into a sinful and broken world and, as a result, the world has taught us all to be sinful and broken. But be that as it may, we all still bear the image of the God who created us, no matter how distorted or tarnished that image has become.

“The Lord (meaning Jesus) is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” The Spirit of the Lord is within each one of us, although we may not be sharply aware of it. As Paul asked the Christians in Corinth, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God?” The same question is addressed to us.

To repeat, “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom,” freedom from the effects of the sinful and broken world we live in. That’s good news. But there is even better news—this freedom is a gift! We “are being transformed” back into the image of God, transformed into holiness by the Spirit.

Madeleine L’Engle, spiritual writer and author of wonderful books for young people, put it this way:

“The marvelous thing is that... holiness is nothing we can earn. We don’t become holy by acquiring merit badges or brownie points. It has nothing to do with virtue or job descriptions or morality. It is nothing we can do in this do-it-yourself world. It is gift, sheer gift waiting there to be recognized and received.”

A gift not recognized and received has no value; but recognize and receive the gifts of God and you will find that you are on the way to healing and wholeness.

Prayer: Holy God, in whose image we were made, continue to recreate us in your image through the transforming presence and power of your Spirit within us—and give us “eyes” to recognize and receive this great gift. Amen.