

Trinity Sunday (God the Father)

One of the most fundamental realities that Jesus came to reveal to mankind is the paternity of God. Psychologists have shown us the structure and essential bond of children to their natural father.

The image of God as Father of mankind has suffered violence. I think it was Freud who said that our filial dependence on God experienced through religion is a pathological regression and keeps us from growing up. God, instead of being a loving father, forces men and women into a kind of slavish dependency. Nietzsche saw this as the tragedy of man. If man is to attain adulthood, it necessary means the death of God. Some people even go so far as to say that the progress of civilization calls for the death of God. God has to die so that man can be born. Happiness for man means the death of God, according to these false prophets.

But has man really become more fulfilled as a result of choosing atheism over faith. On the contrary man has lost his soul; the world has grown cold. "When the father is gone the children are cold". When God disappears people look for other sources of warmth. We try again to reconnect with nature. People go over the top about ecological issues. Some embrace trees - something is missing. We become slaves to Twitter and Facebook and social network sites. The absence of our common Father is betrayed by a frantic search for fraternity and cohesiveness among His orphaned children.

Since God disappeared we have never witnessed such a search for communication and social engineering. But it doesn't do the trick or bring us any closer to one another. Witness the anger and wanton damage to property in America. Has this anything to do with the obliteration of the God, the Father. Is universal brotherhood possible in the absence of a common

Father in Heaven? We must discover spiritual childhood and a filial relationship with the Father and not see it as a pathological regression into slavish dependency as Sigmund Freud believed. Jesus, the Son of the Father, has come to set us free from slavery to sin. It's not God but it's the Devil who is trying to enslave us.

The recovered sense of our divine son-ship and daughter-ship is what's called for. The Father loves us gratuitously and with total acceptance. He wants to 'wed' us.

God accepts us as we are – this is what can cure us. Our era is characterised by a tremendous lack of acceptance. Modern man prides himself on being tolerant. But tolerance does not mean acceptance. Cowardice can mask itself as tolerance. On the contrary tolerance can betray a lack of love. If I said to someone 'I tolerate you', how does that compare with 'I accept you'? The latter is the language of love, the former is not. To be accepted and to accept the other - is that not the most important form of therapy for our era. In a world that suffers so much lack of acceptance, reconciliation, and love, the Christian faith can be profoundly therapeutic. Even when we go away from the Father he still loves us and calls us back.

In the one prayer which Jesus gave us He refers to God as Our Father - both His and ours. His one desire is that we share in His divine life forever.