

A text in which to dwell, and a prayer litany

Some notes on reconciliation, as part of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Intergroup Dialogue Facilitator Training, 27-29 October 2017

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; this is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Cor. 5: 17-21

Trinity and salvation (Heim)

- the divine nature is communion-in-difference (138)
- communion is the substance of salvation, but also the path that leads to it (138)
- Christian tradition sees human being arising at the intersection of three types of relation: our relation with God, with other persons, and with the rest of creation (145)
- salvation is a particular Christian aim distinguished from others. Yet its nature draws us towards others (religious others and social others) and their witness and experience. **We cannot seek salvation apart from healing the broken relations and structures that connect persons.** The Trinitarian communion which is source and end for the Christian path is not an identity of isolation or contradiction, but of reconciliation. (148) (my emphasis)

biblical reconciliation (Schreier)

- is the work of God (126)
- God begins the reconciling process with the healing of the victim (127)
- the healing process in reconciliation makes of the victim (and the healed wrongdoer) a 'new creation' (127)
- a path towards reconciliation requires finding a way to cope with suffering (128)
- reconciliation will only be complete when God has reconciled the whole universe in Christ (128)

reconciliation as mission (Schreiter)

- a principle practice of reconciliation is healing (of memories, of victims, of wrongdoers) (129)
- a principle practice of reconciliation is truth-telling (130)
- a principle practice of reconciliation is the pursuit of justice (punitive, restorative, structural) (131)
- a principle practice of reconciliation is forgiveness (132)

L. Creator God, who has made us in your own likeness and who loves all people, we come seeking fellowship with your power and peaceful presence. In a world filled with divisiveness and disconnectedness, we pause for a moment to ask that you bring wholeness and healing to us and to our world. Creator God...

C. Hear our prayer.

L. Jesus Christ, who poured yourself out in love beyond anything we can imagine, we ask that you help us not to separate ourselves from others because of our differences. Teach us the unity of your family and the universality of your love. Save us from our temptation to despise anyone from pride of birth, race, achievement, hardness of heart. Jesus Christ...

C. Hear our prayer.

L. Holy Spirit, source of all wisdom and knowing, liberate us from the domination of individual and institutional violence. Liberate us from our self-centeredness and lead us into service in the present moment. Holy Spirit...

C. Hear our prayer.

L. We thank you – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer -- for all of your liberating love which reclaims us, restores us, and revives us. We thank you that we are able to serve and stand together in this moment of prayer strengthened for the journey of this day, and we ask that you continue to be with us in the days to come. In your Holy Name we pray...

C. Amen.

more info:

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