

In the Image Study Questions

7 June 2020

1. In the sermon it was suggested that once we began to let go of the need to understand the three-in-oneness of the Trinity and instead embrace the mystery of the Trinity, a much more accessible truth about the Trinity can begin to captivate us. What is that truth?
 “The Trinity is fundamentally relational in nature and, except for one agonizing and heart-rending moment on the cross, in perfect internal harmony and intimacy.”
2. If we as humans are created in the image of the triune God how does the truth that the Trinity is in perfect harmony, unity and intimacy within itself influence our understanding of what it was that we were created for and what we are called to?
 This truth can help us understand that we, too, are fundamentally relational in nature and, though we catch only occasional and imperfect glimpses of it, it is that harmony, unity and intimacy for which we long at the core of our beings.
3. We recognize that our relationships with God and with others are not as harmonious and intimate as they should be. What are the steps toward the harmony, unity and intimacy for which we long? (Hint: both begin with an “R”)
 Repentance and reconciliation. For reconciliation to occur we must first repent of - turn away from - the sins that alienate us from God and others.
4. In the midst of a pandemic lockdown on the one hand, and racial unrest on the other, how should repentance and reconciliation help guide our response to the marginalized and those with whom we are confined?
 An open-ended question for reflection.
5. Why do we think it often is so hard to ask for help in our difficult and painful times?
 Again an open-ended question. The thoughts that cross my mind around this are the cultural values of self-reliance and radical individualism on the one hand, and the desire to to be a burden to others on the other hand.
6. Where do we all need to start in the enormous task of eradicating racism from our world? (Hint: we can control only one person’s attitudes and behaviour).
 While it is always easy to see the egregious sin “out there” the place we must always start from is our own sin and warped thinking. “First remove the plank from your own eye...”
7. For further education on the issue of Christians and race relations I would recommend the following communication from Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber:
<https://nadiabolzweber.substack.com/p/a-pastoral-letter?fbclid=IwAR20DFt3qMiu6Mrxlo641ZuGAEuDPulltjbWNtx0IklqiFEZEiQfMXuEOg>