

THE SACRAMENT OF LIVING

EPIPHANY 2011

Remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

C.S. Lewis

The Sacrament of Storytelling

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2 Corinthians 5 v 14-21

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

2 Corinthians 5 v 14-21

¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin-for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Compelled by Love

Truly See Other People

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It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbor. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid daily on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken.

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare.

All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another... all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics.

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You have never talked to a mere mortal.

Nations, cultures, arts, civilization—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.

C.S. Lewis

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Speech, Action, Story

A Life of Reconciliation

THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

Deliverance

Righteousness and Justice

Peace

Joy

God's Presence

Healing

Belonging and Returning from Exile

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God Expressed

To have outwardly professed Christ. – what is easier? To speak respectfully of him, to bow the head at the mention of his name; to have assented to his doctrines, and ably and successfully defended his institutions, nothing less difficult. It costs a man nothing to do this. There is no cross in it; and what is a man's religion if he extract the cross? – there is no love to Christ influencing, impelling the soul; and what are all inferior motives? – there is no singleness of eye to God's glory; and what if *self* only be the idol which the heart sets up, and before it burns its daily incense? But O, to have Christ in the heart! – this, is the truth of God experienced. Call you it enthusiasm?

Blessed enthusiasm! – we exult in it, we glory in it. Let the formalist, let the man of notional religion, let the mere professor call it what he may, deride it as he will; we admire the grace, and adore the love, and extol the power, which has formed “Christ within us the hope of glory.” Reader, be satisfied, take nothing for granted short of this.

Octavius Winslow

Defeaters:

Defeaters:

Disunity

Defeaters:

Disunity

Indulgence

Defeaters:

Disunity

Indulgence

Fear

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