



Whom, having not seen, we love

MCCQC REFRIGERATOR CARD

Reflections by Pastor Rich

Putting A Face On God

Exodus 33:12-23

Matthew 22:15-20

Today I want to talk about the face we put on God and how we sometimes need to change the way we do that. Then I want to move from just the visual, from the 2-D or 3-Dimensional focus to the transformational aspect of our encounter with God. **First**, the visual. Moses is a part of a long line of folks who sought to put a face on God, and God tells Moses, the best I can do now is to pass before you and you can see some of my glory. People today still tend to do the very same thing – we invent an angry God and worship that; or perhaps the face we put on God is one of an ambivalent God who simply seems to stand by and do nothing and doesn't seem to care about us at all. So we feel justified in ignoring God – not because of God but because of the face we have chosen for our image of who God is. And then there was Jesus. God revealed in quite human form. Jesus says, "If you've seen me, you've seen God." What was important to Jesus – and Jesus tells us that what is important to God – is how we treat one another. Jesus says that our ability to enter into God's reign depends on how we treat our neighbor – and not just any neighbor but especially how we treat the least, the last and the lost. That's the face that Jesus puts on God. **Second**, we move from just the visual image of who God is to being in a transformational relationship with God. There's no better imagery for that transformation than that of the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into the butterfly. Somewhere along the way, we have to surrender –to let go of having all the right answers and thinking that our way is the only right way. We have to stop all movement for a bit – not to quit growing but to allow God to touch us and change us. The cocoon is a nice analogy for that stopping station process. When we know it's okay, that God loves us and wants us to grow – that God doesn't leave us but is right here with us and all around us—then we can be in the cocoon and be touched by God and begin to grow and to change.

October 16, 2011