

DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

Devotions with Matt

MARCH 20, 2020

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

In an effort to stay connected at this time I will be sending out a devotion until Easter. I hope we will be meeting again by then.

An article was sent to me many months ago written by a man named Richard Rohr. While I do not know exactly what he believes, in no way does my using his name here mean I am promoting him or agree with his theology. Since I don't know him it does not mean I disagree with him in whole, either. I simply want to set the stage of why I am writing this devotion.

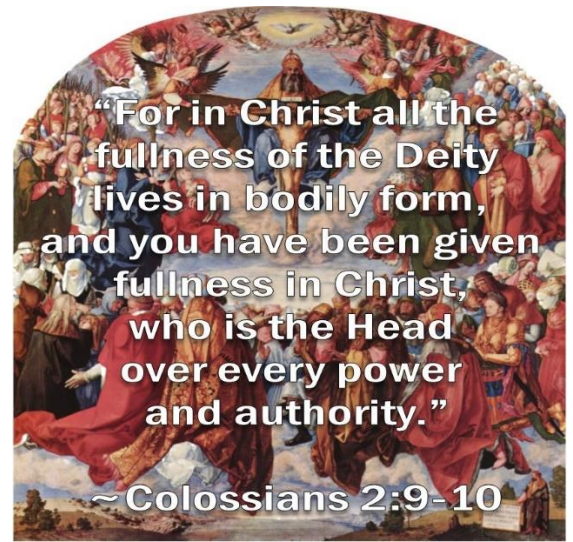
Rohr says that the Trinity is a circular power structure and not a Pyramid. Most businesses and many churches are more like a pyramid in structure with a CEO or a pastor at the top (Friends is not like that). He says the Trinity structure is different because it is based on mutual submission, mutual love and servant-hood. It is more about relationship and relational power and authority sharing, than it is for one to dominate the others.

He says that for us, a circular power structure reflecting the God-Head, is more threatening to us than pyramid structures. We like power. When we get a taste of it and get a hold of some, we want to keep it or increase it. Once we have it we don't like to share it. That's how dictators and tyrants are made. That's why we like CEOs and Presidents and Generals. That's why the Jews asked for an earthly King rather than God as King. I believe in this fallen world there are places for Presidents and Generals and CEOs. I believe our governmental institutions and leaders have stepped up in this crisis and have helped us in many ways; more ways than we could have done without them.

But I also believe the best structure, especially for His Church, is the model of The Trinity we have the circular structure of mutual submission, servant-hood and love. We were created in the Image of The Triune God and that includes how we are to deal with one another, like the God-head deals with one-another in the model of the Trinity. I believe the church should reflect that model more than anyone or anything else in the world. That's why Jesus talks so much about relationships and all the one-anothers.

But Rohr said 2 things in the article (maybe more) I disagree with. The first one he says' "Christians will continually misinterpret and misuse Jesus if we don't understand the circle dance of mutuality and communion that he participated in from all eternity (which we call "Christ"). Instead, with a misunderstanding of the Trinity, we made Jesus into a monarchical "Christ the King". I do agree that we will misunderstand who Jesus is if we don't see Him as part of The Trinity, the Son who was with God in the beginning and thru whom all things were created. If we don't see Him for who He truly is, God Almighty, from everlasting to everlasting, we might be tempted to believe, as Rohr pointed out, to think that God only really became involved or interested in us 2000 years ago.

But the first thing I disagree with Him in the article is that he says we should not think of Jesus as "King" because that puts him in a hierarchical position, even in the Trinity. He also says Jesus Himself rejected the title of King in his lifetime. But Rohr is forgetting that Jesus actually embraced the title when he was questioned by Pilate: "*You are right in saying I am a King. In fact for this reason I was born and the reason I came into the world, to testify to The Truth. Everyone on the side of Truth listens to me.*" (John 18:37) Jesus did not shy away from the title King.



The second thing I disagree with is that Rohr says we should pray in the name of the Trinity, just stopping short of saying we shouldn't pray in the name of Jesus alone. And while I have no problem saying that we can, and do, pray in the Name of The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I do not believe we have to, nor do we ever neglect praying in the name of Jesus.

The Scripture tells us:

John 14:13-14 "Whatever you ask in My Name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My Name, I will do it."

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My Name He may give to you."

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

That is not to say we are to skip over the Father and Holy Spirit or even forget about them. But, in Jesus we see the clearest representation of God and The Trinity we have. We see how Jesus submits, serves and loves in it. In Jesus, we see God's Character the clearest, His Righteousness, His Will and His Purpose. In Jesus, grace, mercy and compassion are expressed, and lived out, according to God's Will. In Jesus, we see the Face of God who took on human flesh and went through what we all go through; trials, tribulations and suffering. Jesus was also tempted and suffered in every way that we are.

And because Jesus, the second member of the Trinity came, died and suffered for us, giving us our only hope against the virus of sin that we are all infected with. His Father exalted Him to the highest place and lifted His Name above all names. And now, our prayers are granted in Jesus' name, blessing pour out in Jesus' name and forgiveness is granted in Jesus' name.

Colossians 2:9-10 says, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the Head over every power and authority."

We never forget or neglect The Trinity, but we are granted access to the Fullness of the God-head thru Jesus our Christ, our Messiah, our King. Let us in this time go boldly to His Throne of Grace, in prayer, in Jesus Name.

In Christ's Name - Matt