

Reflecting Christ in Our Relationships

By Santiago Lange

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).



The church in Corinth had some serious spiritual problems. It was a talented congregation but their understanding of the Gospel was tainted. Apparently, there had been some "bad blood" between the Corinthians and Paul. Some were challenging the apostle's message and his authority. There were also divisions along social lines. The manner in which they were "celebrating" the Lord's Supper was elitist. The wealthy were being treated with preference while others were being displaced from proper fellowship. Partiality was being shown, injuring the example of Jesus and the spirit of the Gospel.

Although Jesus Christ is certainly central to the celebration of the Lord's Supper we must not neglect to understand the importance that God places on the unity of the Body of Believers. If we are one in Jesus we should also be one with one another. When Paul referred to the proper recognition of the Lord's Body (1. Cor. 11:29) he also had this aspect in mind. The Bible is about relationships. Knowing the Lord is not simply an intellectual exercise. Our daily walk with Christ ought to be sincere, intense and real. We can always rely on Jesus. We matter. Our laughs, our sorrows He sees them all. When the love of God touches our lives, when we taste this indescribable heavenly grace, it changes the way we think and act. We want to be the holy nation our Savior envisioned us to be. Yes, we will struggle with our personal sins. But in Christ we have been declared righteous. In our union and participation in Him we have our atonement. In Him we have been sanctified and justified and the barrier alienating us from God has been removed. When we sin, God is willing to forgive. As we have been reconciled to our Creator let us strive to be reconciled also to one another.

Some of us may need "to mend fences" with our mates, our children, our relatives, friends or neighbors. Sometimes this is a difficult step to take. Carnal pride can block our way. It takes humility. Jesus would love to see His people seeking harmony whenever possible. When Jesus Christ returns, an event that is connected to the Lord's Supper, we will be one with Him. Nothing will be able to separate us from His love and we will be secure in His caring embrace for all eternity. We want to reach out to a hurting world, doing our part to reflect the Kingdom of God in EVERY area of our lives.

God FOR us, IN us and THROUGH us. ☐