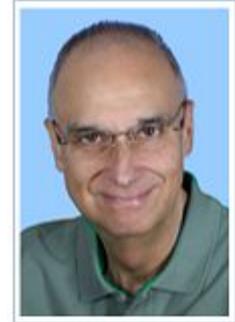


Waddle or Walk?

By Santiago Lange



Soren Kierkegaard once wrote a parable that told of a community of ducks waddling off to duck church one Sunday to hear their duck preacher. After they waddled into the duck sanctuary, the service began and the duck preacher spoke eloquently of how God had given the ducks wings with which to fly. He pounded the pulpit with his beak and said, *"With these wings, there is nowhere we ducks can not go! There is no God-given task we ducks can not accomplish! With these wings we no longer need walk through life. We can soar high in the sky!"* Shouts of "amen" were quacked throughout the duck congregation. The duck preacher concluded his message by exclaiming, *"With our wings we can fly through life! WE.....CAN.....FLY!!!!"* More ducks quacked out loud "AMENS!" in response. Every duck loved the service. In fact all the ducks that were present commented on what a wonderfully convicting message they had heard from their duck preacher....*and then they left the church and waddled all the way home.*

If we are honest with ourselves, when it comes to worship, there are times we are like those ducks. Too often would be worshippers waddle away from worship the same way they waddled in....UNCHANGED. We may hear the message, but miss living in the reality of it, Christ in us, the assurance of glory in whom the message is actualized. Worship involves discerning and embracing that revelation as we are divinely refined and molded to become who we already are in Him so that the way of our being (personal experience) conforms to the truth of our being (ontology). This transformation is not within our own power and it is never apart from God.

We received a personal invitation to walk with Father, Son and Holy Spirit having been created to be loved and to love. Worship is much more than what happens on a Sunday church service. In Romans 12:1-2 Paul described worship in this way when he wrote, *"Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies—your lives---as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God....this IS our spiritual act of WORSHIP. And do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world...but be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of your mind."*

Christ centered trinitarian worship involves apprehending in the power of the Spirit the ultimate reality as to who we are in Jesus devoting our thoughts, words, and actions, to glorifying the Father as we trust, grow, and rest in the life affirming purifying grace and freeing knowledge of our Lord and Savior. □