

Intimacy

I watched a splendid film yesterday. Not necessarily splendid because I loved it, but splendid because of the way in which it dealt with a somewhat common problem, but none-the-less, a problem not often well dealt with or even more sadly, even recognized for what it is.

The film was "The Children Act." The central actors, including Emma Thompson, delivered a powerful performance that brought to life this issue, experienced by so many couples. The loss of intimacy. Now the last thing that I want any reader to jump to, is the idea that I mean sex. Whilst sex may well be an element of intimacy for committed couples, it is not the heart of the matter. Indeed, couples whose relationship is based solely on sex, so often struggle to keep their relationship alive because crucial elements of their intimacy are missing. Two questions were asked in the film as the drama unfolded. "How long is it since we held hands?" How long is it since we kissed?"

The hugely busy life of a High Court Judge had drawn her into an overworked maelstrom in which time to 'be with each other' had been compromised and intimacy in her marriage was lost.

It is an indisputable fact of life that we all need to love and to be loved. When that need is taken from us, we wither and symbolically die. When it happens in a relationship, the couple drift apart and the love that first brought them together is lost.

Predictably, once my mind was churning over, the journey to questions of faith were inevitable. I don't subscribe to the intense

intimacy of Count Nicolaus Zinzendorf¹ who used to write love letters to Jesus, but I most certainly subscribe to an intimate relationship with God and consequentialy, fellow pilgrims. I care deeply about the how people are. By this, I do not suggest that questions like; "How long is it since we held hands?" How long is it since we kissed?" are in any way appropriate, but I am suggesting that our relationships in fellowship should be such that we become people through whom others experience the touch of ultimate intimacy; the touch of Christ.

Not just our relationships. Our worship too should have a vibrancy that inspires us to experience the awesome-ness of God's presence among us. Often in modern worship, there is a push to make things 'friendly' right across all ages. I like the principal, but too often, the end product is a loss of scared-ness. We want to make it easy for people to fit in, but all we do then is teach them something that falls far short of sacred. There is no divine intimacy within this praxis and my question would be; "how and when, will that divine intimacy be taught and thus experienced.

Soli Deo Gloria

Ross

¹ Nikolaus Ludwig, Reichsgraf von Zinzendorf und Pottendorf was a German religious and social reformer, bishop of the Moravian Church, founder of the Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine, Christian mission pioneer and a major figure of 18th century Protestantism