

May 28, 2008

“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.” – Psalm 96:11-12

STATEMENT ON GOD’S JUSTICE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The human race exists in isolation from Creation like never before. We have lost our connection to the seasons, the stars, the movements of animals, each other, and to God. We have reduced all of God’s creation into a commodity to be bought and sold, and have subsequently lost all understanding of our connection to the rest of Creation. When we fail to understand nature, we lose sight of God, for all creation points to God and rejoices in Him, as the Psalm says. To willfully subject creation to further bondage and despair is to work against our calling as Kingdom-Builders. When we fail to meet this calling, we lose a clear vision of God’s plan for the world. And when that happens, we start to lose the glue that holds us together in community.

God plans to reconcile all things to Him, and as Christians we are “entrusted” with the “message of reconciliation” (II Corinthians 6:19). As the body of Christ, the Church, we should seek in every way to carry on the ministry of reconciliation, and to be a part of God’s plan. To act in the spirit of reconciliation is to work against this trend of destruction and separation that is now centuries old, and that has escalated exponentially over the past few decades. In the Bible, “creation” is not merely a mindless, lifeless collection of matter, nor is it merely a resource that is to be exploited and consumed by humans. Rather, Scripture declares that Creation has a personality, and just like us, it cries out for a right relationship with God; it yearns to be “liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Romans 8:21). When we realize that all of Creation is a vital part of the story of our redemption, we have a new opportunity to gather in community, and work against the destruction of our times. This not only restores our connection to nature, but also reconciles us to each other, and ultimately to God.

This is not a “green” idea, or one that is merely about the preservation of our species. We seek a holistic, Christ-centered subversion of our thinking that has as its core goal the restoration of right relationships between people and Creation. The pursuit of profit, prestige, or personal gain does not strengthen the bonds of community, nor does it fundamentally challenge the prevailing trend towards destruction and isolation. Through a fuller understanding of what it means to be *reconcilers*, the Church should work to establish faith-based, community-centered educational opportunities and actions that will reconnect us to God’s wonderful Creation.