

***The Art of Being Wise is in Knowing What to Overlook:
Reflecting God's Merciful Love in Our Personal and
Professional Lives***



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**“The art of being wise is in knowing
what to overlook” – William James**

- ▣ Over and above all else God looks upon us with an attitude of love for “God is Love” (1 John 4:8)

- ▣ An inseparable ingredient of God’s love is “Mercy.”

**God's patient way of interacting with us
has the effect of being "generative."**



**"To love another person is to will what is truly
best for them" (M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.R.
from: *This Tremendous Lover*)**

- ▣ Sometimes this will mean overlooking their faults and having a generative attitude like God has toward us.
- ▣ Eucharistic Prayer #1) Do not consider what we truly deserve but in your mercy grant us your forgiveness.
- ▣ Psalm 103 describes God's attitude toward us.

Mercy Triumphs over Judgment (James 2:13)

- ▣ The importance of God's merciful love cannot be overstated.
- ▣ Treating others the way that God treats us - is inseparable from the spiritual life.
- ▣ "Be merciful even as your Heavenly Father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged, condemn not...forgive and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:36).

If we are to love as God loves our "image" of God is very important...

- ▣ If our intention is to imitate God in our way of relating to others - our personal understanding of God will be reflected in the way in which we treat them.
- ▣ What do we personally believe about God?
- ▣ Do you *really* believe that God is love?

Jesus is the revelation, the Incarnation of God's love

- ▣ It is a love that “patiently overlooks our many faults...”

We need Jesus to reveal God to us -
because...God's “overwhelming vastness” is a
problem for our smallness... ‘Just tell me you love
me...’
(Karl Rahner 15-16).

- ▣ In Jesus, God, who would otherwise be overwhelming is revealed in a way we can relate to and process *as limited and finite human beings*. **In Jesus God comes (is revealed) to us through a human heart.**
- ▣ Jesus said, “The way I feel about you is the way God feels about you. *If you have seen me you have seen the Father.*”
- ▣ Like an “ideal parent” communicates only what really matters to the child and makes sure that they understand....

Metanoia” - “to change your mind”

“About what life is about, what God is about.”

- ▣ Putting on the “mind of Christ” - in the Holy Spirit “paradoxically” means coming to - and going through - Jesus to meet our loving and gracious Father that he directs us to. Then we will see ‘life’ with new eyes.”

St. Paul tells to “imitate Christ” - What does this mean to you?

- ▣ St. Francis of Assisi - a beautiful way of imitating Christ but not for everyone.
- ▣ Fr. Henri JM Nouwen in *The Wounded Healer*” said....
- ▣ “When the imitation of Christ does not mean to live a life like Christ, but to live your life as authentically as Christ lived his, then there are many ways and forms in which a man or woman can be a Christian.” - Henri JM Nouwen

We are called to be the uniquely gifted person that God calls us to be.

- ▣ To put on the mind of Christ (imitating Christ) means to be concerned about what Jesus was concerned about - Revealing the love of God the Father for everyone...
- ▣ And to do it in our own unique way by living our own lives as "authentically as Jesus lived his."
- ▣ *Mystical Body of Christ*, "There are *many different* gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; ... *different* forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at *work* in them *all...*" (1st Corinthians 12:4).

A spiritual exercise on love...

- ▣ Chuck is patient and kind; Chuck is not jealous or boastful; he is not arrogant or rude. Chuck does not insist on his own way; he is not irritable or resentful; he does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Chuck bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1st Corinthians 13: 4-7).

The Prayer of St. Francis

- ▣ “Make me an instrument of your peace.”
- ▣ We will see ourselves differently...being gentle with ourselves, loving ourselves as God loves us.

What is spiritual enlightenment?

- ▣ While some things demand our immediate attention maybe even our correction...
- ▣ The art of being wise, more often than not, is in knowing what to overlook.

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is about...

Experiencing and accepting God's merciful love in your life and reflecting and sharing God's merciful love in your life with others.

Realize that the unfathomable wisdom and mercy of God is revealed (by Jesus) in that God overlooks so many of our faults throughout our lifetime. Ask God to help you extend that same merciful love toward yourself and toward others.

Presented In honor of "The Jubilee Year of Mercy"

- ▣ This presentation is based in part upon the "primary message" of "Simple Contemplative Spirituality" - A new book by Charles W. Sidoti with a Foreword written by Fr. Dan Schlegel.

- ▣ The message is that - "God is love."
Available after this presentation or
on line at: amordeus.com

