

July 21, 2020

"The Way of Jesus is the Way of Life and the Way of Life can change the world." Bishop Curry

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

I found out over the weekend that a very good friend of mine died as a result of a heart attack, stroke, and Covid. I began to reflect upon the good times and the many things we worked on together hopefully in furtherance of the mission of the church.

Then I had an unusual thought. It seems that when someone dies we immediately start reminiscing about the great qualities of that person. We laugh about some of those things that annoyed us. Often explaining them away as quirkiness or that was just old so-and-so. By the time we are finished, we have almost elevated the deceased to sainthood.

Unfortunately, we are not so understanding and tolerant of the living. Frequently we bear petty grudges that may separate us from one or another for years. We remember the slights and the insults.

Frequently we bring ourselves to God seeking forgiveness for all of our baggage, our failures, and our sins. God who is merciful, loving, and kind; forgives us. Why do we struggle in many instances to offer that same mercy, love, and kindness to the people we encounter in our lives?

I invite you to offer prayers for the people in your life who annoy you, have harmed you emotionally, or whose quirkiness may make them unlovable to you. Ask God to show you the goodness in humanity.