

Memorial of Saint John Neumann January 5, 2018 St. Agnes Church

Who is Jesus Christ? (Think about this for a moment.)

Here's my list:

he is the great light come upon this earth;
he is the one who calls us out of darkness;
he is the one who says "follow me";
he is the one who says "I know you";
he is the one who says "I see into your heart";
he is the one who says "I will shepherd you";
he is the one who's kindness endures forever;
he is the one who's faithfulness lasts for all generations;
he is the one who promises greater things;
he is the one who says "there is no life without love";
he is the one who says "if you remain in my love, you remain in me";
he is the bringer of life;
he is the one who changes human history;

All these are statements of faith.

No scientist would ever agree with me if I called them statements of fact.

This is the 2nd time this week I've asked this question: "who is Jesus Christ?"

In my mind it is a logical question to ask during this time after Christmas.

Jesus Christ is born. He is come into this world. Well, who is he?

Answering this question provides what we need to answer another important question, a personal question: "who am I, who are we, in relationship to Him?"

This in turn leads to another question, a question of purpose:

"what should I be doing, what do I want to do with the life I've been given?"

How do I want to live? What is my life's purpose?" There we have it!

It is necessary that we re-ground ourselves in purpose.

The purpose of our lives remains fluid. In other words, it can change in the blink of an eye.

Purpose has a tendency to fade, to weaken, to dissolve and disintegrate...to shift focus.

If we want our purpose founded on and in Jesus Christ to survive

we must deliberately recognize and renew its reality. It's sort of like recharging a battery.

And it will take more than just thinking about it. It requires more than our ordinary consciousness.

It will take more than just prayer. It requires that we act.

For example, let's choose our purpose to be unity in Christ (communion in Christ),

i.e., my purpose is to be and to remain one with and in Jesus Christ.

If he is the great light come upon this earth, then standing in the light unifies us with him.

If we are in darkness we are not unified with him. Sin is darkness.

The absence of love is darkness. The absence of compassion is darkness.

Anyone who hates remains in darkness. This is where the need to act comes in.

We desire to stand in the light but because of sin we find ourselves in darkness.

Until we make the necessary adjustments, until we act so as to be freed from the darkness,

until we allow God to make necessary adjustments within us, that is, until we allow God to transform us, our unity in Christ will be compromised. Our purpose will remain unfulfilled.

[As an aside we must be careful not to limit our sense of things to the emotional realm of life.

Just because we may "feel" unified with Christ doesn't mean we actually are unified with Christ.]

Today's prayer: "O Lord, strengthen our belief that Jesus Christ, Your Son, is the key to the mystery of our lives. Provide for us the grace we need to abandon all that hides Him from our sight and all that hides us from His sight. Amen!"