

South Carolina LMM Bold Gathering - May 23rd, 2020

Group Discussion Questions

"Unity, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness: The Essence to Cultural and Church Vitality"

Presented by: Bishop Tim Smith

1. Discuss the issue of blame as cited in the fall narrative of Genesis 3 and what it does to relationships
 - a. Between humans and God
 - b. Between humans with each other
 - c. Between humans and creation
2. How do you see the ongoing eagerness to blame others at play in the world today? In politics? In personal relationships? In global relations?
How might things be different if we, as Jesus suggests, remove the log from our own eye before focusing on the speck in someone else's?
3. St. Paul says in 2nd Corinthians 5:18-20 that we are reconciled to God in Christ and entrusted with the work of reconciliation in the world. Dr. Jenson, Bishop Tim's seminary professor, described heaven as "the perfect reconciliation of all relationships."
Do you think that's accurate? What gives you hope about all things being reconciled ultimately?
What sort of worries you about everything and everybody being reconciled?
Are some things/people beyond reconciliation for humans? For God?
4. In John 17:20-23 earthly finale prayer is that his followers would be one. Unity. The 16th-century reformers (Luther and those who followed) insisted in the Augsburg Confession that uniformity is not necessary for unity—not even in church ritual and practice.
So what does unity in diversity look like?
5. We all fancy ourselves to be independent thinkers and creatures, but the truth is we don't even know our own name, or where we were born, or if we're successful, of value, etc. unless someone tells us.
Who are you? Who told/tells you who you are?
How do you decide to whom you will listen and whom you will follow?



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