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NAIM TRC Assignment

2017

I have struggled with how to respond to the reading I have done in the TRC document. As I read there were some important statements and concepts that I appreciated and some that challenged me to continue to examine my own sinful heart for signs of weakness, apathy and prejudice. This document seems to have opened up some good possibilities for reconciliation to move forward. Some of these are:

Understanding vs racism

Openness vs closed and fearful

Communication vs stereotyping

Acceptance vs rejection

Respect vs distrust

These can be applied to both the Aboriginal and the non-Aboriginal sides.

This past Sunday (in another context) a Pastor said that “the point of reconciliation is forgiveness”. That got me to thinking. Though I believe he was Biblically accurate, I would say it a little differently. I believe that the point or purpose of reconciliation is forgiveness and rebuilding relationships, or, more simply, forgiveness and relationship.

It seemed to me as I read the TRC document that it talks a lot about reconciliation but offers little in the way of forgiveness and moving on . . . of forgiveness and rebuilding broken relationships. Instead, it seems to me that most of what I read was an attempt to entrench hatred, fear and prejudice into our national documents and, therefore, into our Canadian psyche or understanding of who we are, far into the future.

It is most important for we Christians is to think through a Biblical perspective on reconciliation. We need to understand God’s perspective on reconciliation and rebuilding relationships. We need to understand the pitfalls of documents that come from the minds of men so that we can truly understand both the strengths and weaknesses of such documents.

Some related statements and questions that came to mind are:

1. “All men are sinful and desperately wicked” Therefore any document written by anyone, including this one (mine), need to be read with that in mind. People full of pride and selfishness wrote those documents. The documents are not God’s perspective, though they may contain truth.
2. “The devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” Satan does not want reconciliation so he will attempt to keep true reconciliation from happening.
3. What is the purpose or end goal of reconciliation? To change from enmity to friendship Eph 2:16
4. What payment or reparation is enough so that both parties can begin rebuilding the relationship; both on the same side working for mutual ends? Deuteronomy and Leviticus provide some direction? Gen:33
5. What part does grace and mercy play in the process of reconciliation? God certainly demonstrated grace and mercy throughout HISStory. Col 1:20-22
6. How does man’s reconciliation with God help us understand people’s reconciliation with one another?