

Second Hand Preacher

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 19, 2016

Galatians 3:26-29

I recently talked with a man who was colorblind. He had trouble differentiating colors and different shades of color. He was able to see a traffic light because of the placements of the lights. I told him I thought it would be very hard to be colorblind. He told me that he didn't know any other way. There would be disadvantages of not having as much color in your life. It would be hard to give up that ability to see vivid colors. There may be some advantages of not being distracted and perhaps treating others more as equals. It would be harder to distinguish color, so one could perhaps be less prejudiced in a perfect world.

I'm sure there was discrimination among the new Christians in Galatia. Some were Jews steeped in Tradition. Others may have been Greek who thought they were more progressive. Some lived a slave life of persecution. While others, both rich and poor, lived as free people. There was that hard distinction between men and women, where women were seen as property. They didn't have full dignity and this would happen long into the future. St. Paul saw a way out of all these problems, all these different viewpoints. He wanted us to follow Jesus who saw us all as one. Once one was baptized, they were to be equal under Christ. Jesus loves us all the same, and when we truly believe in him, Paul suggests we become, in a way, colorblind.

Being colorblind means we can fight against the evils of discrimination. We should be free to practice our faith. As Catholics, we believe we have the universal answer, but all are welcome. Love should be the answer when we deal both with different denominations and different religions. We need to work against racism. We should try to see the value of people of all color and persuasions. This may not come natural and there may be walls built up because of past experiences, but we should work to be colorblind. We need to treat both sexes with respect. I do not believe men and women are equal, but I do believe they are complimentary. When dealing with different orientations, love and respect need to be present even when values differ. As Christians, we are all united in one baptism and God loves us equally. May God's love help us to see clearly the beauty in each one of us.