

April 5, 2016

Dear friends,

We do a lot of things in the name of God, some good, some not so good. We blame God for a lot of things that happen to us, and in the world. It is good every once in a while to step back and ask ourselves and each other who we believe in, and how God does engage with us.

For example, I would start out by saying two things. First God is love. He creates, He acts, out of love. Second, God is consistent. Therefore He never acts out of anything but love.

By that logic, I have a difficult time believing God wants people to be at war with each other, hurt each other, judge one another as either "one of us" or "not belonging". I do think God expects more from us, and that probably begins with expects us to see all people as His children, and therefore belonging to the same family as us. God has created all people, God has created this family of humanity, and done so out of love. I think He expects us to find His love within us and each other so that family and each member can be the best person possible.

Why am I writing this? Well, it is certainly a response to the world we live in. But it is also born from a book that I have just finished and we will be studying on Wednesday mornings, called Not in God's Name. I would invite you to join us for the study, or just pick up the book and read it on your own. I think for me it is one of the most important books I have read for a long time. It has forced me to ask, what do I do or not do in God's name? How do I live into God's name? Good questions for me, and I think, for all of us.

Fr David