

SECURITY, LOVE &

The Great World House

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Plan

- ▣ Security
- ▣ Theology
- ▣ The Great World House

Security

- ▣ Safety
- ▣ Political/Material security
- ▣ Psychological security
- ▣ Power □ Sovereignty

Word of the Cross

- ▣ *The Word of the Cross* - The Word of the Cross is the law of love: “If [one] would truly live [s/he] must die to self; but this dying to self is no guarantee of the preservation of his physical life...Men will make nonsense of life if they seek to make sense of it only upon the basis of their physical survival. It calls us to die to self/self-preservation/self-love and live in Christ’s “sacrificial, suffering, and self-giving love” (*agape*). Love rejects the attempt to balance or discriminate between competing interests. (Faith and History, 171) ‘Whoso seeketh to gain his life will lose it’ “

The Word of the Cross

- ▣ If love is removed as the final norm in all human relations, the ultimate criterion for judging (positive) law is lost and historic states become end in themselves. Justice degenerates into mere order without justice “if the pull of love is not upon it.” (Faith and History, 185)

Strong and Able God

- ▣ *Strong and Able God* – “The greatness of our God lies in the fact that [God] is both tough minded and tender hearted...has both austerity and gentleness...justice and wrath...love and grace...a God of justice who [punishes, and also] forgiving...At times we need to know that the Lord is a God of justice. When slumbering giants of injustice emerge in the earth, we need to know that there is a God of power who can cut them down like the grass and leave them withering like the Greek herb. When our most tireless efforts fail ..., we need to know that in this universe is a God whose matchless strength is a fit contrast to the sordid weakness of [humanity].

Strong and Able God

- ▣ ...But there are also times when we need to know that God possesses love and mercy...we need to know that there is Someone who loves us, cares for us, understands us, and will give us another chance." ...“The ringing testimony of the Christian faith is that God is able.” The universe is “a God-centered universe.” God is able to sustain the physical universe, i.e. the cosmic order. God is able to subdue all the powers of evil, able to conquer evil in history, and to give us interior resources for life. God is personal...This God both evokes and answers prayers.” (STL, 9, 163)

Ontological Love

- ▣ *Love* – love is an ontological, rather than simply emotional or ethical category. Love may be qualified in a number of related ways – as *libido*, *philia*, *eros*, and *agape*. “Love is the moving power of life...[It] drives everything that is towards everything else that is...the drive towards the unity of the separated...the reunion of the estranged...The power of love is not something which is added to an otherwise finished process” but it a constitutive element of life. (“Love, Power, Justice”, Tillich, p.593-596)

Ontological Love

- ▣Without the *eros* toward truth, theology would not exist. Even more serious is the rejection of the *eros* quality of love with respect to God. The consequence of this rejection is that love towards God becomes an impossible concept to be replaced by obedience to God. But obedience is not love.”

The Great World House

- ▣ Matt 22: 34-40

Policy Goals

- ▣ Local agency!!
- ▣ Constitutional/Human Rights
- ▣ Flow across border
- ▣ Civil Society
- ▣ Materialism
- ▣ Migrant health, employment, education
- ▣ World House Principles

Q&A