

A large, scenic photograph of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff face, serving as the background for the top half of the page.

Chronicles of Diversity

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Metis Economics: Urbane Urban

Western culture has gotten so urbane urban that we think, no we know, that we pretty much have every thing of importance figured out. The small amount of knowledge and wisdom that we don't possess, will soon be swept away by our growing flood of intellect, until such time that we truthfully believe that we are no longer just God's messengers, but little gods unto ourselves.

There is even a well televised sect of Protestant evangelicalism that promotes this theology as part of their paradigm of worldly affluence. But virtually all evangelical churches are guilty of producing Dog Tales as to their unique position within the Body of Christ. We refer to these as "What we Believe" statements that adorn our bulletins, little booklets available at the information desk in the lobby, and web sites.

The historic creeds of the church? They are not for us man, we have a much better spin on what it means to be Jesus

followers, than what a body of true church leaders hammered out in over half a century. But that was 1700 years ago, and those Bishops were associated with Constantine, who turned Christianity from its true roots as Jesus in your heart, to a state religion.

I am referring of course to the Nicene Creed. But what is lost in this, our modern urbane urban rendering of the facts, is that these church leaders were trying to produce a unifying statement of Christian belief, for a church not only becoming filled with teachings that were an anathema to historic orthodox Christianity, but false, outright heresy. We, of course, don't have to worry about these sins, because our diversity is based on urbane urban egalitarianism.

The following is a literal translation of the Greek text of the Constantinopolitan form, (taken from the 1917 volume of the Catholic Encyclopedia available on the internet), the

brackets indicating the words altered or added in the Western liturgical form in present use:

We believe (I believe) in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and born of the Father before all ages. (God of God) light of light, true God of true God. Begotten not made, consubstantial to the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary and was made man; was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, and shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, of whose Kingdom there shall be no end. And (I believe) in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who together with the Father and the Son is to be adored and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We confess (I confess) one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for (I look for) the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen."

What this document is trying to do, and does like no other in all history, is to provide a universal analytical statement for the Christian faith. It doesn't abolish the working of Jesus in your heart, but it does recognize the truth of Jeremiah. 17:9; *"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*

Notice how in the west, the creed has been modified to fit our need for individuality at the expense of community. However, the interesting thing about this discourse is that God wants us to be unique eternal personalities, serving and worshiping Him in unique eternal communities, as part of a universal church. But a funny thing about God, which we don't want to understand, is that He wants and requires us to do this His way, if we are to be truly unique as He created us.

We are not to build the church on our own, based upon our limited understanding. What is wrong with our personal renditions of these efforts, is that they are really too simplistic to give God His proper Glory. In other words, our words create a God limited by our language abilities and our self centered mind set.

Taking these limits into the political arena, we have created the red state - blue state dichotomy, the great fly over, and the right coast, left coast. The latter, since both coasts are essentially liberal, must refer, to the established liberal morally correct, and rebellious youthfully liberal morally sinister, as well as just the directions on a map.

To the urbane urban, creation is a foe to be conquered with jet planes, expensive SUVs, and suburban affluence. A well manicured lawn, is the example of the well disciplined and affluent life. In fact, the flora and fauna of this landscape is ultimately designed for control over nature, by recent, legal and illegal, (uneducated) immigrants.

Such a view of creation however, is impossible in our rural heartland, essentially because there is so much of it. It is too big to plant properly, it is too big to water, it is just too big to comprehend, and impossible to tame. Therefore, the proper course of action for the urbane urban is to deify it, and defy its power with our insecure denial. In other words, have as little to do with it as humanly possible. Creation like God, is to be read about, and experienced only in coffee table books.

Have you ever wondered why they call them coffee tables? Must be some arcane reference to an ancient era, when people had time to share (home brewed) coffee with friends. Friends, just who are they? Another reference to bygone times and people outside our network, people with which we just talk about life, its meaning, and its experiences, without stress, and oblique personal achievement angles. And, get this, do the coffee friends thing in our home, over a low table, not in the corner latte shop protected by its sterile furnishings. Sterile and cold, that is just plain urbane urban at its best.

Our reference to Romans 1:18-23 from last week requires repeating: *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they*

knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

In the vastness of creation, beyond the urbane urban sphere however, you are personally confronted with the tension between the unlimited and the limited. Essentially, you and your needs are limited, creation and its grandeur are unlimited. In a way similar to the Nicene Creed, creation speaks a message of the nature of God, and the nature of the human heart.

While neither the Nicene Creed, nor the Natural Law and Common Grace of creation, are the unique revelation of Scripture, they do provide a revelation of God that require us to at least seriously look at the Nature of God and the God head. Used together, you have a specific revelation of God that overwhelms the best of man's sermons on leading the successful Christian life.

The church was designed by God to be that coffee table type of community, but instead it has become nothing but a reflection of the nothingness of the urbane urban. As such, in the church, the Roman Catholics will wonder why the new pope does not share their worldly aspirations for fulfillment, and the evangelical Protestants will wonder if the new German guy is really the incarnation of the Antichrist, and the Orthodox persuasions will ignore the whole subject without varying in their traditions. All the while the majority of the whole church will get up Sunday morning and head to church for no reason they consciously understand.

In Matthew. 16:18, Jesus speaks to Peter concerning his revelation of Jesus being the Messiah, *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*

In our urbane urban world this principle works contrary to the best and worst intentions of man. I suppose that this is true for all of Jewish - Christian history. The interesting thing is that we truly could be part of God's program however, by moving beyond our self imposed

limits to our faith. In other words allowing God to become the God of all creation and not just the God of our lap dog perception.

How God has accomplished this unique opportunity, has been the keynote of this Phylogenesis series. How we might more fully embrace that revelation will be our topic next week.

Other articles in this Phylogenesis Series:

Liquidity with purpose; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/liquidity9-29-4.pdf>

Bottled Liquidity; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/bottleliquid10-6-4.pdf>

Fakin it; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/fakinit10-13-4.pdf>

Natural Energetics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/natureenergy10-20-4.pdf>

Political Energetics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/poleenergy10-27-4.pdf>

Reasoned Phylongeny; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/reasonphylodg11-3-4.pdf>

Sasquatches & Polar Bears; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/sasbears11-10-4.pdf>

51-48 gas; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/51-48gas11-17-4.pdf>

Show me; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/showme11-24-4.pdf>

A cheap plot; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/acheapplot12-1-4.pdf>

Cheesy Cows; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/chessycows12-8-4.pdf>

Raurbs versus Apgars; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2004pdffiles/raurbsapgars12-15-4.pdf>

Metis; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metis12-29-4.pdf>

The Complete (Natural) Metis; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/completemetis1-5-5.pdf>

Metis Economics; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisecon1-12-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, People; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metispeople1-19-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Land; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisland1-26-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Water; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiswater2-2-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Faith; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisfaith2-9-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Eternity; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiseternity2-23-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Rendezvous; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisrendezvous3-2-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Communion; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiscommunion3-9-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Rest; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisrest3-16-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Easter Eats; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiseastereats3-23-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Time to lead; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisleadtime3-30-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: What did Jesus do?; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiswdjd4-6-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Unconscious conscience; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisunconscience4-13-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Dog Tales; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisdogtales4-20-5.pdf>