Weekly Bible Study
group – October 15, 2008

This week’s reading assignment: Genesis 2

Whenever we’re reading any kind of literature, it’s essential that we pay attention to things like opening and closing lines. These key lines help us understand everything in-between. Think about the opening and closing lines in the story of the creation of Adam and Eve...

In Genesis 2:4 we read the opening of this story: “This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” This opening line gives us a clue about the point of the story. It tells us that what follows was God’s original plan for his creation. This is the way God set it all up. This is the way the world works when God has his way with it.

Now look at the closing line of the story, Genesis 2:25: “They were naked, and they felt no shame.” This is a summary of the creation of humanity and the Garden of Eden. They were naked and felt no shame. In this story about how God intended the world to work, there were no walls built. The standard was openness and vulnerability. No hiding. No masks. No shame.

“This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created...

they were naked and felt no shame.”

1) This nakedness that is described in 2:25 is certainly not restricted to just physical nakedness. This is about more than clothing. What does it look like to be “naked” before God and others? To what extent is this even possible for us?

2) In the world as we know it, we are controlled by fear and shame in many ways. What are some of the fears that cause us to build walls and wear masks? What are the walls and masks that we construct?

3) As Christians today, living with the hope of the kingdom of God, we are called to bear witness to a new creation, a new world order that is on its way. We’re not supposed to be “conformed to the pattern of this world.” How can we live a new kind of community that gives us and those around us new hope for a restored world?

Have a good week!
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