

Spiritual Discernment

Spiritual discernment is spiritual diagnosis. And such a diagnosis cannot be correctly made unless one is living divine love in their heart. Only when love is present will one have the spiritual eyes with spiritual x-ray vision that give one the ability to see the presence of unconditional love, which is different from conditional love. This spiritual discernment within the Christian churches is badly lacking.

The dark angels have done a masterful job of keeping such an experience out of Christianity. They have done well in convincing us that we must be concerned about dogma, law and commandments and their correct interpretation. Having even a profound knowledge of these things will not give us the ability to have spiritual discernment, the ability to have spiritual x-ray vision. Dogma, law and commandments are not life! They are intellectual concepts only. Love is Life. Love is a person! Love is divine!

When we love we are united with God and God with us. They dwell within us, and that we know, not because the Word of God says so, but because we have experienced it! That's the only way we know if we are love! It must be experienced. There is no other way to know love. Without an experience, love is merely an impotent concept. Nothing more.

And this is precisely the problem confronting the church today. For example, Pope Francis wants a different vision of Marriage. The vision that he is offering is one that can only be understood when one has x-ray eyes capable of seeing the presence of unconditional divine love. The problem concerning gay marriage is the same.

The true answer to this crisis is not first to demand compliance to the law and its interpretation, but rather to use one's ability to see things from the spiritual perspective of love. Therefore, the basic question in rendering a spiritual diagnosis is: is love dwelling within the person?

Love fulfills the law, and one cannot grow in love while continually committing serious sin. Both of these statements are spiritual absolutes! But how? Those who are living divine love will understand. All the others will be petrified that immorality will be rampant without obedience to the law. The presence of such fear nonverbally says that they do not know love.

"These people pay me lip service but their heart is far from me...Hear me! Nothing that enters a man from outside can make him impure; that which comes out of him, and only that, constitutes impurity...wicked designs come from the deep recesses of the heart."
(Mark 7: 6, 15, 21)

Let's be honest with our dialogue. Here is a basic fact: sexual activity is the same no matter whether it is done within marriage or outside of marriage, no matter whether it flows from a heart of love or one of lust. Therefore, it is not the act that is good or sinful

despite our proclaiming otherwise. The act in itself is indifferent. Consequently, it is the desire of the heart of the person that makes the act either good or evil. That's what Jesus said.

This means that even between a marital couple different levels of rape can exist. For example, if a married couple share their love sexually one evening, and the next morning they arise from bed with a grouching irritable disposition, then spiritual discernment says that what transpired the night before was not a sharing of love. Someone was "raped" by their spouse. The experience of unconditional love changes one's heart, and that change lasts. An experience that does not last is not love.

The same applies to a sexual relationship between two people not married, or two people of the same sex. The sexual activity is the same for all. But, does the experience of the sexual action remain and continue to influence the person with joy, happiness and compassion, or does it cease to exist shortly afterwards?

Since the action is always the same, spiritual discernment wants to know where the heart was at the moment of the action, and it wants to see the visible signs of the fruit flowing from such an act of love, like, kindness, compassion, patience, peacefulness, etc.

Of course, this is not how we are arriving at condemnation today. We follow the Pharisees' method of discernment, not that of Jesus. It is interesting to note that our criminal courts don't even use this method. Again, spiritual discernment is impossible if one is not living a life of divine committed love. Such a person will never be able to accept the truth of St Paul's statement that "Love fulfills the law."

Please note well that the statement "love fulfills the law" does not eliminate the existence of lust and promiscuity. But, it is clearly stating that a sexual action done outside the parameters of law is not abusive when it flows from a heart of unconditional love. The words lust and promiscuity of their essence implies actions done from a selfish and egoistical heart. Spiritual discernment will seek to know first if such a heart was present or not at the moment of action because a heart of love will not abuse anyone in their sharing of love. How? Once again, one knows the tree by its fruits.

All this is urgently needed to be taught to our beloved faithful brothers and sisters. But they are not going to hear it coming from the bishops and priests. First of all, because the bishops and priests are petrified of anything sexual, and secondly because they do not really know divine love in their hearts. They only know very well the law. Again, the law does not give life. Only Divine Love does.

So, here is an example that can indicate whether we really love the Lord as we say we do: Who among the clergy and the faithful today spend time lost in a loving embrace with Jesus in the Eucharist? Who celebrates the Mass and daily worship with loving devotion?

Two human bodies who are in love with each other will always experience love flowing between them when they touch each other. That is human! So, if my belief in the Eucharist is in my heart as well as in my head, then I will experience a love flowing between us as we touch each other. Otherwise, spiritual discernment tells me that I really don't believe in my heart that He is truly present. It is only a ritual to be fulfilled. So, where is love? Unless it is experienced it does not exist in me.

The other day the news reported that Pope Francis stopped into the basilica to kneel and pray as he passed by. He was kneeling in the pews like everyone else. Eventually the priest began Mass. Francis participated from the pews. At communion time he joined in line with the faithful to receive Holy Communion. There is no doubt that this man is having love experiences with Jesus! It is not a ritual for him.

We all have so much to learn about love! And until we do, this world will not change. Until we live a divine love that produces virtuous fruits we will never be Christians. Jesus didn't come to save our heads. He came to dwell within our hearts. He does that by giving us His Holy Spirit who in turn fills us with Her Divine Gifts that we are to use for the common good of all so that the fruits of these gifts may be experienced by all, especially ourselves. This is what changes our heart! This is what will change our society and world! This is the true power of the Church.

Teo, a hermit

Further thoughts: www.laermita.org/articles/myfather.pdf or simply www.laermita.org/articles.htm.