



Life Shines in Dialogue

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68).

In the beginning, God said. And God said, and God said, and God said. We have a speaking Creator and a Father who communicates. But He does not just talk *to* or even talk *at*. The Lord our God always talks *with*. He has made us creatures of conversation and includes us in His own delightful dominion of dialogue.

This term, “dialogue,” comes from two Greek words. *Logos* means “word” (as in “the *Logos* became flesh and dwelt among us,” John 1:14), and *dia* means “through.” Dialogue, as the Good One defines and demonstrates it, embodies a process that connects. Communication generates community – and community cannot come about without it.

Satan has twisted this good gift. He entices humankind into weaponizing words and teaches us to accuse, categorize, command, and control. We become selfish and fearful, wielding words to create and keep distance. We’ve made the means by which the Almighty breathed life into a mechanism for dealing death, initially against one another but eventually all over ourselves.

Thanks be to God for swallowing up our silence by incarnating His own eternal Trinitarian dialogue. Jesus situates among us as heavenly and holy invitation to engage and exchange. And Immanuel listened for thirty years so that He could offer the spot-on response. His crucifixion discloses the ever-hospitable heart of God, and His resurrection opens a sharing without end.

So we hear and so we speak. Christians echo and mimic our dear Father’s words of life. We rejoice to speak for neighbors whose voices may go ignored. But also – and even more – we speak with neighbors, asking and understanding twice as much as answering. (After all, God has given us two ears and one mouth!) Sanctity of life

encompasses both *what* we say (or rather what the Savior would say through us) and *whom* we are discoursing with. We speak truth *in* love because speaking truth – together! – *is* love.

Prayer: O Lord, open our hearts, minds, and ears by Your Gospel, and then open our lips and arms toward one another, that we may love the exchange as well as the outcome. Amen.