



ALLEGANY BOYS CAMP

inspiring change through relationship

February 2017

Image Bearers Through Relationship

Genesis 1:26&27: And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God made man in His Image.

I am intrigued with the idea that God created mankind in his image. While I think it might include our physical characteristics, I believe it is so much more than that. I think it also includes our intellect, emotions, freedom of choice, the ability to have relationships, and so much more.



So what do relationships that reflect the image of God look like?

After Adam and Eve sinned, they recognized the sound of God walking in the garden. I assume this was not the first time God walked in the garden, but was potentially a regular occurrence. That relationship was perfect in every way. I imagine there must have been close communion, absolute trust, and unified vision. There were no walls between them, no hesitancy in communication, and no self-protection necessary...until sin broke that relationship. Since then, human relationships have been troubled with conflict. While human relationships in our fallen condition can be very difficult, they are the most rewarding part of our existence. With the exception of a few interactions between God and his people, including the Old Testament Law, there was no consistent revealed model for human relationships.

Enter Jesus. His intercessory prayer in John 17 clearly states his ultimate desire for the entire human race: "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Jesus modeled healthy human relationships like none other.

Reflecting the image of God through relationship means we must first know God and His character. We can then reflect that character in our daily interactions. How that is experienced on a daily basis is one of the biggest challenges of Christianity. It is also a solemn responsibility. God has chosen us to represent his Kingdom on this earth. When relationships between Christians are no different than society, we bring shame to the name of Christ.

Probably the biggest threat to human relationships is unmet expectations. Unfortunately, a lot of times those unmet expectations shouldn't be allowed to cause tensions because they were never properly considered. I once heard a pastor talk about expectations in a way that has stuck with me. His basic premise was that in order for an expectation to be established, it must first be reasonable, clearly stated, and mutually agreed on.

Reasonable: in other words, it needs to make common sense. What might seem reasonable for one person might not be reasonable for the other party. Unless there is proper communication about whether the expectation makes sense for everyone involved, the expectation should not be established.

Clearly Stated: again emphasizing the importance of communication. If the details of an expectation are assumed, they will probably not be met. Time and again, I look back at expectations that were not met and it's obvious I didn't communicate well enough.

Mutually agreed on: both parties must buy into the expectation. This may be the most difficult one to achieve but it is equally important. We cannot expect someone to fulfill an expectation unless they agree to it.

While these three principles of expectations may seem a bit elementary, taking some time to evaluate the conflicts we have had will probably reveal a weakness in one of these areas.

I look forward to one day being in the presence of God and being able to experience perfect relationship for the first time.

Until then, let's pursue a deeper knowledge of Him so our relationships become more and more a reflection of Him.



David Beachy

David and Michelle Beachy served as a part of the staff team for the past 4 years. We appreciate their contribution to camp during their time here. Thanks to David for writing the article above.



Adventure Learning - Orienteering

Have you ever been lost? Or, if you're a guy like me and it's difficult to admit to being lost, allow me to rephrase the question. Did you ever lose track of where you were? I recently had one of those experiences here at camp one dark night out in the woods. Ironically, I could see the light from my house the whole time, less than 200 yards away and was still unsure of where exactly I was. In my state of disorientation I managed to walk a 180 degree loop around my house until I figured out where I was, then I was able to get to where I wanted to go.

We had the chance to do some navigation and orienteering here at camp this session, learning to read a map and compass. There are a lot of things to know before setting out with a map and a compass, like known points, grid size, declination, bearings, longitude and latitude, true north and magnetic north, northings and eastings and so on. Did you know that if you set a compass to 0 degrees (north) and followed it you would not most likely end up at the North Pole? In fact you would probably be over 300 miles away from the geographic North Pole. If you are following a compass you need to know your declination, the difference between true north and magnetic north.

Getting through life requires some orienteering. Many choose to beat their own path, not really sure where they are at or where they want to go. It's been said, "If you don't know where you're going any way will get you there." Here at camp we're trying to figure out where we are and where we want to be. As we identify and solve problems it is an attempt to figure out where we are, where we want to be, and how we're going to get there. For myself that night in the woods I had trouble getting to where I wanted to go until I knew where I was.

Allow the Lord to help you navigate through life with His Word as your map and His spirit as your compass and you will get to where you ought to be. Study your map carefully and set your compass to True North.


"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Kevin Maust, Supervisor




Camp Kindling *... small pieces of camp news and needs*



 Welcome to Charles Yoder from Gladys, VA. He has returned to camp and is serving as groupwork supervisor.

 We need wood-cutting crews for this spring.

 Come see us at REACH 2017 held at Calvary Church in Lancaster, PA on March 23-24. REACH brings 50 Anabaptist ministries and Kingdom workers together. For registration and information: www.fbep.org/reach-2017.

We hope to move chiefs into their new house next month. Furniture is needed for their house. Here is a list of what is needed:

- 8-10 twin size new mattresses
- Good used sofas, recliners, chairs
- Chests of drawers
- Dining table chairs