

CARING FOR CREATION NEWS

October 2008

The company I work for is starting to promote Sustainability. You may have heard the word; it's become quite trendy lately. What business means by the term isn't always exactly clear. What is clear is that you had better at least talk the talk. To paraphrase Little Orphan Annie---"...though you may wear the best, you're never really dressed without..." sustainability.

Sustainability is a good thing; it implies that the urgency of environmental issues, especially global climate change, has sunk into our collective consciousness. In essence we're saying that we can't keep doing what we're doing and get away with it.

Business defines Sustainability as the triple bottom line. Companies will only survive if they are equally and concurrently attentive to economic, social, and environmental challenges. The equal and concurrent idea intrigues me. Imagine trying to hit a major league fastball. Imagine facing three pitchers at once. Sustainability isn't easy.

Nevertheless, sustainability is where it's at. Complexity is real and, I contend, Biblical. The apostle Paul in describing the Church calls it a body—a complex interaction of members. When interacting properly and in balance, the body is healthy—sustainable. When interacting poorly, the body is at risk. As much as we desire that healthy body, we know that unhealthy one all too well.

One of the joys of Christianity is that God calls to us and says, "You're going the wrong way. Turn around! "Come, follow me," Jesus says, "and I will give you rest." That's good news, but you do have to turn around.

There's a lot of turning being called for these days: Drive less. Fly less. Purchase local food. Eat less meat. Live in a smaller home. Limit energy consumption. Live a simpler lifestyle. I'm sure that you could add to the list.

None of the items on this list are desirable--that's why we hear so much about alternatives. Couldn't we just substitute good stuff for bad stuff and still live a rich life? We're looking for change without pain. That desire is pretty human; we know it well. We've fallen and we can't get up.

We know from our personal experiences of salvation that God comes to us at precisely these kinds of fallen moments. So when I see a life changed, I say God was in that. There's no other explanation; certainly, no human explanation. And when we see changes in lifestyle, I'm willing to say God was in that too. These too are signs of the kingdom. It is possible that our brick and mortar decisions will say as much about what we believe as our catechism.

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