

Sometimes we find pages in Scriptures that are particularly strong, and raw. Today we get one of these pages. God gets really mad when some of His own people gets treated badly. The whole section of this chapter includes social laws. The language we hear seems to confirm what many say – the God of the Old Testament seems to be very different from the God that Jesus talks about. The God of the OT seems to be getting furious, and violent. And if we pay attention only to what God says from our point of view, we may be right. But if we see things from God’s point of view we can discover something amazing: how committed God is to us; His love always protects us from being places anywhere but at the center of creation. When our dignity as human beings is challenged, God intervenes and even becomes wrathful.

The Love that God has for us is real, visceral, worthy of our trust and our imitation. There can not be abundant life outside of this framework. These laws are for life, to guarantee life’s dignity and foster growth. Outside, there may be only biological life, but certainly there are no life-giving fruits. That’s the worst kind of death.

*How can we enter deeper into this reality? How can we understand and make others understand what it really means to be “pro-life?”*

God’s wrath can only be calmed by Jesus, who calls us to reclaim the centrality of Love. This is the lens through which we must read, interpret, and especially live all that the Word commends us to do. It is when we come imitators of Jesus that things around us can change; it is only then that we can truly become models and examples of a humanity that is truer and truer, more and more alive, always more “in His image and likeness.”

By placing Love at the center of everything, Jesus teaches us that we must organize our values, our actions, our words, our plans and even our loves and attachments. Our Love to God and our neighbor become two fixed points, like nails on a wall that will allow us to place our picture in a stable way.

Love. This word today is used in so many strange ways that has lost its power. It has been reduced simply to a particular type of feeling or emotion which, like all others, come and go freely. Here’s why many say: “we are separating because we don’t love each other anymore. There is no more love.” But we have forgotten that Love is a decision we make to love someone who is imperfect, and we give ourselves to that person, hoping the other will do the same, until the whole relationship is brought to the level that God wants it to be, how God intends it, and already sees it fully realized.

It is in Love, and in loving that we discover that we live in the “already, and not yet.” But to be in this place we must realize that all our love and loving must be rooted in God’s Love and our love for God, otherwise nothing moves, and nothing is transformed. When we are in God, and in His love then everything we do, we say and every relationship enters into a new life where all is not only transformed but even transcendent.