5 Minutes for Faith – “Relationships”

Recently, I delivered a sermon about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its connection to Christianity and humankind, overall. Admittedly, it was a pretty deep subject for a Sunday morning, but the fast-moving concerns of AI can’t be ignored. I feel it is vital for all of us to firmly ground our Christian perspectives on God, humanity and the world amidst them.

My AI-focused sermon centered on the importance of human relationships, something so important to us and which cannot be replaced by the powers of AI.

Yes, AI helps with many things. But at its core, life is not about things; it’s about relationships. It is the hands we hold in our hearts that define the kind of life we lead. Relationships determine the quality of life as we know it. Relationships are what mold our hearts and our minds into the feelings of life. Relationships represent and show us the face of God on Earth.

This thought of old-fashioned feelings and human interaction isn’t meant to discredit technology. It, in fact, is a wonderful tool to enhance our relationships if used right. Consider the way we use electronic devices and systems to help us connect with loved ones … texting, emailing, the discovery of long-lost friends through the Internet, FaceTime calls, and so much more. AI is an extension of that, helping us to more quickly find information and aiding us in simple tasks.

My only caution is that we all try to maintain the “human touch” as much as we can. Remember what I said in that recent sermon: “The human being is a person called to relationship and communion … and cannot be defined merely as data or projects.”

Some will counter that any Christian’s relationship with God isn’t person-to-person, but instead person-to-being … a celestial being. An intangible being.

In literal terms, that’s tough to argue. But if a Christian has a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ, it isn’t a mystical fairy tale. It is real. It is a relationship rooted in belief of a begotten life, one that is based on the resurrection of Jesus and the forgiveness afforded to us.

We believe that the reason for the church's existence and its true value lie here. As a community awaiting the Second Coming of Jesus Christ together, the church is the ideal setting to experience God, learn of Him, and help one another put Jesus’ love and service into practice in our lives through intimate relationships with one another. This is who we are and why we are.

With blessings, Rev. Hyun-Suk Kim (“PK”), Wadsworth United Methodist Church Lead Pastor

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