

17th March 2021

Disconnection

“There is often a disconnect between God's law and man's law.”

Bernice King, USA Today News, 2014

Along with “recalibration”, which I looked at recently, the other word which has been in common use for a while now is “disconnection”.

Bernice King is a Baptist minister, and the youngest child of Martin Luther King Jr and Coretta Scott King. In a speech at a Press Conference in 2014, she expressed strong views on the then on-going sale of her father’s Nobel Peace Prize and bible, which she was against and her brothers were in support of. The words quoted above were obviously in the context of the issue of the time. But, reading them now, they seem to me to be applicable to situations we’ve been wrestling with during this pandemic.

For many decades, humanity has believed itself to be in control of its own destiny. Within the confines of human laws, it seems we’ve decided we can do what we want, and to hell with the consequences. Yet from such issues as the devastating effects of deforestation, the destruction of delicate eco-systems through carbon pollution, the obesity epidemic and the exponential rise in consumerism, we have failed. There is a disconnect: between the immediate and the long term; between personal gratification and the importance of community; between those who have choices and those who have none; between “me” and “us”; between the secular and the spiritual; between the human and the divine. Unless these broken ties are “reconnected”, we will remain victims of our destructive, human ways.

In a manse I once lived in, there were “bell-pulls” on either side of the fireplace, which, in the post-Victorian era when the house was built, were used to summon servants, connected as they were to bells in the kitchen. But *I* could have pulled on them for all I was worth, and it wouldn’t have made any difference, for the bells had been disconnected.

Can we restore the connections we’ve chosen to sever because of our own selfishness, greed, arrogance, pride, or power? Might we face up to, and deal with, our “disconnections”?

A prayer for today

Lord, when I know I am disconnected from you, will you be patient as I try to restore the connection? Oh, sorry, I forgot ... You’ve not severed your connection with me!

An original reflection by © Tom Gordon

Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>