

The Question of the Week

“Now this is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God
and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.”

John 17: 3

It is more than two long months that we have been living under the constraints of life during a pandemic. By and large the response has been really very good. Without knowing very much about this virus and what it would do or could do, the vast majority of Americans have taken seriously the mandates from government leaders and Church officials to sequester at home. We still do not know a good deal about this virus but after two months, nerves are fraying and there is a chafing. There are very real and very significant consequences when 30 million people go on unemployment in six weeks' time. Very real.

Cabin fever. Hunger. Isolation. Anxieties about employment. Children and their needs. Adults and their needs. There is a lot going on. We ask: What kind of life is this? Is this really living? What kind of life will there be when we emerge from our cocoon phase? Typically, we do not spend a lot of time thinking about these major life questions. Typically, we are content to put one step in front of the other and keep moving through the daily grind of work, family life, recreation and prayer. But at this time we do have to ponder the big questions. Why am I here? Why did God make me? What are my responsibilities? Am I living the best way I should be living? Am I preparing my children not just to live in this world but to learn that there is a life beyond this life, a life that does not end, a life with God?

Jesus speaks about “eternal life.” And he defines what it is: “Now this is eternal life: that they should know you, the only true God and the one whom you have sent, Jesus Christ.” That is the beginning of eternal life. So the question for right now is simple: Have I embraced that conviction myself in the way I live and in my attitude towards people, events, priorities? Have I successfully handed on that set of core beliefs to my children and those who come after me? I know this much. I am seventy-three years old and I know that I am by no means finished. There is much that still needs to be done. Are you beginning to recognize that truth in your own life during this pandemic? That is the question of the week.