

the  Venues  
Go Deep  
The Spirituality of Disney Songs  
“Part of Your World” from The Little Mermaid  
10.22.17

*What nickname were you given?*

*Why did your parents pick the name they gave you?*

Ariel expressed in this song a desire to be a different person.

*If you could change something about yourself, inside or out, what would it be?*

Read Genesis 1:27. *What does it mean to be created in God’s image?*

The word “image” was used in Hebrew in three ways: “something cut out” -think cookie cutter; “a shadow of something;” “a statue”

*What do these uses tell us about the meaning of “image?”*

*How do these uses help us understand the meaning of us being made in God’s image?*

Henri Nouwen wrote, “*So who am I? Who are you? We are God’s beloved ones, bearers of the divine image and human beings capable of glory and goodness...When we understand the mystery that we are loved not for what we do but because of who God says we are, we are free to love others in a similar way.*”

*How do his words fit with Paul’s in Colossians 3:10, “...and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator.”; and Ephesians 4:24, “clothe yourself with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

*List the characteristics of this new self.*

There is within us a True Self - who God made us to be - our soul, and a False Self - the self we develop and display that comes from thinking our worth, our identity comes from our position, possession and power.

“The True Self is what God creates us to be - a person who lives life in love, joy and peace.” Richard Rohr

The False Self gets offended, gets its feelings hurt, and is self-centered, self-protective, self-seeking - leading to fear, greed, aggression, despair.

Read Ephesians 4:23-24 and Colossians 3:9-11 again.

*What do we learn from Paul’s use of the clothing metaphor to describe the two selves?*

*What is one result of putting on the New Self that Paul lists in Colossians 3:11?*

*How does that result relate to our culture?*

“Religion” literally means “to re-ligament” “re-align” “re-ligio.”

*What does that meaning tell us about religion’s purpose?*

*How well has religion done in “re-aligning” us with God?*

Read these sermon excerpts: “The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, abhors you...” Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” 1741

“Some of you, God hates you...God hates, right now, personally hates some of you...God doesn’t just hate what you do; He hates who you are.” Mark Driscoll, 2011

270 years and it’s the same message. *Does that message represent truth? What do you think is God’s message? What message serves religion’s purpose to “re-ligament”?* *What message have you heard? What message are we giving?*