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If I Saw You in Heaven

I've been reading Eric Clapton's new autobiography, *Clapton*, and it's gotten me to thinking again about humanity's inclusion in the Divine Life of the Father, Son and Spirit.

Clapton is a man who's really lived the legendary life of "sex, drugs, and rock and roll." Yet he's also a man who has, like all of us, shared in the Divine nature (Acts 14:17.) His autobiography is raw and honest about both of these realities.

You might want to read it some day, so I won't give it all away, but I was quite struck by his own awareness of his art as a participation in God and the way in which he finds connection with God in the midst of addiction, profound personal loss, and the long road home.

There was a time when I viewed everything in compartments. I saw that God was in heaven and the world was not. Every human being could be neatly classified as in or out.

Perhaps greatest of all was the massive, yawning gulf between secular and sacred. In the world as I imagined it Eric Clapton would be classified as secular, pure and simple, and the sacredness of heaven would have no place for him (unless of course he shunned his whole existence and became what I said he should be.)

Now, in Christ, I have found a breathtaking vision of wholeness, connection and inclusion. The idea of the "secular" has been blasted out of existence, because the sacred – the Divine Son – has invaded our world, crucified our fallenness, and raised up creation to heaven in himself (Col. 3:1-4.)

In Christ all things have been made heavenly and holy.

That doesn't mean we don't sin. We all do, every day. What it means is that we are all in this together; that the Father, Son and Spirit have decided to never be God without us.

The cross we celebrate this Easter season tells me that the Trinity is in Eric Clapton's sin – and in mine and in yours; bearing the sorrow with us and ensuring that our failure cannot destroy us.

The resurrection we celebrate this Easter season tells me something even more important, though: that the Trinity is in Eric Clapton's music – and in mine and in yours; sharing with us the joy and dance and life of their heaven. It is a joy given freely to their beloved humanity in the divine man Jesus Christ.

~ *Jonathan Stepp*