

Dr. Papanikolaou- Lesson 8

Why did God give us the ability to think about the Trinity? How does the person of Jesus Christ inform our thinking about God?

1. What did we learn last class? Review your notes and rewrite a key point or takeaway that you found significant. If you were absent, your job is to review the student guide from last class and then ask your fellow students questions about the points they're about to share.

2. Read the following two verses of scripture. What do they have in common? What do they reveal about the power of face-to-face interaction?

"Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink, but I hope to come to see you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete" (2 John 12; c.f., 3 John 13)

"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:25)

3. Do they find it important to have some conversations face-to-face, rather than merely through writing in an e-mail or text conversation?

4. What is the advantage of having a face-to-face conversation? Are there any things that make a face-to-face conversation more difficult?

5. Now fill in the points Dr. Papanikolaou makes in this video clip.
 - a. Our faith is _____, even if it's not _____.
 - b. When something is scientific, it is both _____ and _____.
 - c. Christianity is not a religion of _____. It is a religion of _____.

As you watch and listen to Dr. Papanikolaou, take notes below:

8. What do you think Dr. Papanikolaou means when he says that Christianity is not a religion of the book, but a religion of the person, Jesus Christ?

9. Jesus did not write the scriptures himself. All of the scriptures are written by human beings who received revelation from God. Why do you think God chose to communicate to us in this manner?

10. If our faith is based upon a person, rather than a book, what challenges and opportunities does this fact present to us as we try to live as faithful Orthodox Christians?

11. Any final thoughts?