

GROUP DYNAMICS - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: that we remain open to finding grace in the emotions that raise from the inner workings of our group

"Let those be angry with you, who do not know with how great toil truth is attained, or how difficult it is to avoid mistakes. Let those be angry with you who do not know how rare a thing it is, and how hard a thing, to be free from the phantasies which arise within us. Let those be angry with you who do not know how painful is the healing of the inner eye of man if it is to behold it's true Sun - not that image of the Sun in the sky which you know, but that Sun of which it is written, *The Sun of Righteousness is risen upon me*, and of which the Gospel says, *This was the true Light that enlightens every man that comes into this world*. Let those be angry with you who do not know what sighs and tears are needed if the real God is to be known - even in the tiniest degree. Lastly, let those be angry with you who have never been led astray, as you and I have been led astray. But for me to be angry with you is utterly impossible... But in order that neither may you be angry with me, I must beg this one favor of you. Let us, on both sides, lay aside all arrogance. Let us not, on either side, claim that we have already discovered the truth. Let us seek it together as something which is known to neither of us. For then only may we seek it, lovingly and tranquilly, if there be no bold presumption that is already discovered and possessed. But if I may not ask so much as this of you, grant this at least, that I may listen to you, and talk with you, as with people whom I, at least, do not claim to know."

St. Augustine - *Contra Epistolam Manichaei*, cap. 3

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What type of dynamics energise me when I am in groups? Which ones bring me down?