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Titanic, Icebergs, and Communion

I John 4: 13-21

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I have been reading a fun novel called “Raising The Titanic.” It reminded me of the movie and soundtrack of “Titanic” that swept the world a few years back. Whatever it was that draws us to disaster movies hit it big time with this one. How could an iceberg conquer the world’s largest, strongest, greatest “unsinkable” ship? How did people cope with such an unlikely and unforeseen tragedy? Maybe it is the heroism, faith, and love stories of the people that draw us. Maybe we come away with the relief that it happened to someone else and not us. Whatever it is, “Titanic” is gigantic. It also caught my spiritual attention.

One of the major forces of this story, though, was not just the ship and the people. It was the iceberg. I’ve seen icebergs up close and they are huge. Some are literally underwater mountains, not just big pieces of floating ice. Sometimes we forget that there are icy “underwater” mountains that can shipwreck our lives and faith as disastrously and unexpectedly as the “Titanic.” Two of the largest are found in the oceans of guilt and fear.

Guilt can be a good thing if it reminds us of what we **do** bad. It is not good if it daily tells us we **are** bad. If guilt weren’t such a big iceberg, God Himself would not have become one of us to address the matter. He came to die for what we do bad. He came to free us from being declared bad.

Fear also is a good thing if it leads to respect for God and protects us from real danger. It is not good if it controls us and prevents us from living in faith and enjoying the safety of God’s love. “*We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; His perfect love **for** us eliminates all dread of what He might do **to** us.*” (I Jn 4:18 LB)

Our ship of faith can unknowingly crash on these great icebergs if we lose sight of their true purpose. God’s forgiveness and love offers us a different choice by which to sail. We may even have a real pleasure cruise on the long journey called life. We celebrate this kind of love, safety, and forgiveness each time we partake of the Lord’s Supper, and on this occasion we remind each other of what draws us together.