

The Adopted Life

Trinity Sunday ~ 06.19.2011

Trinitarian Dominion

I used to not be a big fan of Genesis 1.26, where God says “Let them have dominion over [the earth].” The human race has taken that verse as a license to rape and pillage the planet with impunity, because that’s what we think “dominion” is. But I’ve come to see that the entire first chapter of the Bible is one big definition of how true dominion behaves. How does the Trinity exercise dominion over creation? By finding ever-new creative ways to give dominion away. After all, each act of creation does begin with the word “Let.” As in “allow.” As in “Let us step back and release this bit of reality to become something distinct from us, to be itself.”

I can imagine the Triune conversation on the beginning of the sixth day: “So what should we make TODAY?... You know, this whole dominion thing these last few days has been REALLY fun. Let’s give THAT away too! Let us make men and women who are free to do what we’ve been doing—the dominion work of loving things and setting them free to become more and more beautiful and good! Then we can take tomorrow off.”

Am I making my part of the planet more good, more beautiful, more whole? Am I setting it free to be more and more itself? That’s the Trinity’s kind of dominion. That’s how I want MY dominion to work.

~ John Stonecypher