



Coalesce Podcast

Episode 006 – It's about being connected

Note, terms, scripture, practice



[Acts 17:28](#)

The essential links in the divine chain included:

- 1) Earth itself with its minerals and elements;
- 2) the waters upon the earth;
- 3) the plants and trees;
- 4) all animals on the earth, in the skies, and in the seas;
- 5) the humans;
- 6) the heavenly realm of angels and spirits; and
- 7) the Divine Creator, the Connecting Mystery, the Ground of Being, the Source from which and to which all life flows.

“God is in all that is because everything that exists is held in existence in Christ” (David Benner, Spirituality and the Awakening Self).

“We have forgotten what rocks, plants, and animals still know. We have forgotten how to be—to be still, to be ourselves, to be where life is: Here and Now. . . . What is it that so many people find enchanting in animals? Their essence—their Being—is not covered up by the mind, as it is in most humans. And whenever you feel that essence in another, you also feel it in yourself.” (Eckhart Tolle, Guardians of Being)

“Every being is a spark of the Divine, or God. Look into the eyes of the dog and sense that innermost core. When you are present, you can sense the spirit, the one consciousness, in every creature and love it as yourself.” —Eckhart Tolle

[Luke 10:27](#)

“All true living is meeting.” —Martin Buber

Univocity (“one voice”) of Being

[Romans 5:5](#)

[Romans 8:18-22](#)

"The whole universe together participates in the divine goodness more perfectly and represents it better than any single creature could by itself." —Thomas Aquinas

[Colossians 1:15-20](#)

holon (a part that mimics, replicates, and somehow includes the whole)

"Love is a deep empathy with the other's "Beingness." You recognize yourself, your essence, in the other. And so you can no longer inflict suffering on the other." —Eckhart Tolle

[Revelation 21:1](#)

[Ephesians 4:12](#)

[Romans 8:22-23](#)

[Colossians 1:17](#)

Practice: Loving Creation

We naturally move from the concrete to the universal, and so it makes sense to begin loving Earth, caring for God's creation, with what is closest to us. Becoming intimate with God's presence in one aspect of creation—be it a pet, a familiar birdsong, a garden, or favorite wild space—can move us toward loving the rest of the world through compassionate actions.

Let yourself be drawn today and in the coming week to a particular created thing. Spend time observing it and coming to know it better. Use all your physical senses and your heart as well. Study this creature to learn more about its characteristics, the niche it fills in an ecosystem, its various needs and contributions to the balance of life-death-life.

As you come to love this unique creation, let your embrace widen to include all the things it touches—water, air, minerals, plants, animals, humans, and the rest of the earth. You might feel called to a specific, tangible way of loving this being and its community, perhaps through one of these practices:

- Grow a garden and feed it with compost (raising your own food is a nourishing and meaningful way to connect with and care for Earth; eating less meat puts less strain on Earth's resources; native plants provide habitat and food for bees, butterflies, and birds; composting reduces landfill waste and nourishes the soil).
- Travel sustainably (walk, ride a bike, take a bus, carpool, live and shop locally).
- Learn about environmental policy and let your voice be heard (call or write to a representative; add your name to a petition; join a peaceful demonstration or protest).
- Simplify (cultivate non-attachment through meditation and find ways of living with less while appreciating more the beauty and abundance of simplicity).
- Introduce someone else, especially a child, to your beloved creation (take them on a walk in the woods; share a picture and details that make this creation special; invite them to join you in a caring act).