

When I was at Seminary I was blessed to have this amazing professor, Dr. Charlie Price. He was already in his seventies when I arrived, but this very tall, imposing man impressed me with his energy, his spirit, his wisdom and his love for his students.

It was Charlie who taught us about the Holy Comma. I hope you heard the capitals in those words, because that's how we heard him say it—with reverence and with awe.

The Holy Comma to which he is referring is in the Nicene Creed, a creed we say every week. It's on page 358. Flip to it if you would.

I'll read it as we usually say it.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is seen and unseen.

Charlie told us that when we say it that way, we say it wrong; we don't leave adequate space for the Holy Comma, the comma that should be a space full of reverence and wonder.

When we get to the comma, he said, we should pause briefly and remember the infiniteness of God, the infinite possibilities that are ours when we realize *we are in God, and God is in us*. He told us we need to pause at the Holy Comma to really fathom what we are saying.

So I'll say it again, this time—for Charlie—with the proper emphasis given to the Holy Comma.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is--- seen and unseen. Of All That Is-- seen-- *and unseen*.

God the creator, makes ALL THAT IS, all that we can see around us, all that we can see with our eyes or touch with our hands-- and God makes everything around us that ***isn't*** visible to the naked eye: the love that created us all-- the energy permeating everything, the wind, our spirit, the air, and of course, the things that are here but we can't perceive them.. Everything that is--- visible and invisible—breathes through our very souls.

So I guess we need to show some respect to the Comma.

The letter to the Colossians this morning gets to the core of it:

“I think that Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.”

I think we sometimes focus too much on appearances-- what our eyes actually see-- as if that's the most important thing, Even sometimes as if that's all there really is.

And we do the same thing with each other. We are complex human beings, all of us, but we pay far too much attention to the packaging.

Let's say humans-- are like an iphone. We get so caught up in the case, and the apps, and the look of the phone, and the ease of use, that we sometimes forget the amazing complexity of what is inside the phone, the guts—if you will—that stuff not visible to us that makes the phone text, play music, show us our loved ones faces on Facetime, take pictures, read newspapers, allow us to watch cute cat videos.

And yes—even make a phone call.

That is the most important thing—not the packaging of the phone, but the inside parts.

But how often do we focus on our bodies, or our clothes, or our hair—as if that's all we are. Those are only the visible things—the very tip of the fathomless depths that are inside us. We consume so much time with the VISIBLE, that we sometimes neglect the INVISIBLE-- the wonder of our minds, our memories, our intuition—our very souls, which live in God.

And believe me, we are mysterious--- even doctors will tell you they don't completely understand how human beings work. They know the physical parts very well, those things seen with the eye and the microscope. But the mysterious unseen parts of us can defy logic, doctors, and our spouses. Doctors will be the first to tell you that medicines are important, but that it often something unseen in us, or outside us—that does the healing.

We human beings—we're made up of things visible and invisible—because we are made in the image of God.

On this Christ the King Sunday, let us remember that Christ is king of all that is: visible and invisible.

And there is a certain hugeness in the world around us. And there even more hugeness that is currently invisible to us.

When we read the Nicene Creed today—and every Sunday—remember to show some respect for the Holy Comma. And let the wonder of what you are saying fill you. Amen.