

Dear Friends,

“A love that desires to see God may not have reasonableness on its side, but it is the evidence of filial love. It gave Moses the temerity to say: *If I have found favor in your eyes, show me your face.* It inspired the psalmist to make the same prayer: *Show me your face.* Even the pagans made their images for this purpose: they wanted actually to see what they mistakenly revered.”  
[Saint Peter Chrysologus]

Unreasonable people can be very difficult to deal with in our lives. The unreasonableness can stem from any one of a number of places. The person may feel they have been slighted or mistreated. They may have felt ridiculed or been in a vulnerable situation where they felt a disadvantage. Most of the time there can be a basis in fact. A lot of times it easily becomes exaggerated, especially when our pride gets in the way.

Unreasonableness can quickly set in and when this is taken to the extreme, becomes irrational. All perspective and moderation goes out the window. The only thing that can get it back is to get perspective.

I find it interesting that Saint Peter Chrysologus uses the term ‘unreasonableness’ when it comes to describing the love of God. This is one of the few times when it does make sense. When the love of God truly directs our lives then we will do anything to get more of it.

It may sound strange but the love of God also moderates our lives and respects our integrity as persons. God’s love affects our lives as they are, most especially in their freedom.

The perfect example of the unreasonableness of God’s love is the birth of Christ. In its fullest expression

it seems so illogical to choose humanity if you are God. Only love can explain it.

Filial love as expressed through the birth of Christ is what we celebrate this day. Christ becomes like us in all things, but sin. Angels sing and shepherds adore. They express wonder and so might we – *Only wonder leads to knowledge.... Wonder comes before all categories; it is what leads me to seek, to open myself up; it is what makes the answer – not a verbal or conceptual answer – possible for me. If wonder opens me up as a question, the only response is the **encounter**; and only with the encounter is my thirst quenched. and with nothing else is it quenched more.*  
[Pope Francis]

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,  
Father Beaudin