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I am half way into a year of chairing meetings I haven't chaired before and won't chair again. I also attend a lot of gatherings where I am a figure-head visitor-observer. Through these experiences I discovered again what a deep investment I have in the matter of meetings between people coming to something. I have a lot of trouble knowing what I want to bring to a meeting but I have no trouble knowing what I want a meeting to come to. I seem to have a deep investment in wanting some God-stuff to happen whenever people meet.

I covet whenever two people meet; whenever men meet with men, or women meet with women or men and women meet together. I covet this whenever there is a cross generation meeting, whenever a congregation or any of its groups or boards meet, whenever church courts or committees meet.

What I have in mind is that in the meeting of people with people, God is to be met.

I think I have some notion of the marks of an occasion when God is met.

When God is met, something we have been stumbling over becomes the foundation stone of life; a change takes place in what we consider to be righteous, in what we consider wise, in what we consider powerful; what we take to be first, becomes last.

God stuff has taken place when people are given to each other, when they are moved to love the world, when they are turned again to the fallen world to take responsibility for its sin

God stuff has taken place when people face societal issues to the depth at which God is met, at which God's activity in the world is discerned, at which God confronts us in the flesh.

That is awesome stuff.

What makes this awesome stuff terrifying is that everything we call

~~where~~ God-stuff is not necessarily so. Biblical history bears constant testimony to the fact that the People of God ~~who~~ mostly avoided God or ~~even~~ ~~was~~ where he didn't send them.

The peril of wanting to make sure God-stuff happens at meetings is that such zeal is the very stuff out of which God-exclusion is made.

People meeting people is how God gets to people. Thank God, people are earthen vessels of that treasure so that the glory is God's glory and not ours.