

Snakes, Demons, and the Theology of the Cross

Where is God?

Nadia's departure at HFASS

Snake at Lake Buckhorn (harmless yet frightening to me)

Tension in Lutheran theology

Serpent - wiser, crafty, subtle, clever, intelligent (aruum)

Not evil. Nothing the serpent says is wrong.

Why do humans accuse things that are different, unlike them, things they don't understand, of being evil?

Jesus liberates people from oppressive forces and gathers disciples, so of course religious leaders assume Jesus is one of Satan's generals.

Voltaire "In the beginning God created man in His own image, and man has been trying to repay the favor ever since."

Austen Channing Brown, author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*, succinctly described the problem - "discomfort isn't shame" just because something makes us uncomfortable doesn't mean it's wrong

Yes, you are the image of God, and so is the person who makes you most uncomfortable.

So yes, the image of God is in police officers and the image of God is in a man who sells individual cigarettes on the street.