

SPRING 2021

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH



The Unity of the Faith

- selections from "A Call To Unity" by Bro. George H. Miller, Sr.

"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;" Eph 4:2 In this verse the Apostle exhorts us to unity and love, purity and holiness; not only to the doctrine but to each other.

In the words that follow, we find proper means and motives to promote them. There is nothing in the scriptures that is pressed upon us more earnestly than love and unity. Love is the law of Christ's Kingdom and in this, and this only, can man find the key to fulfill the command that He gives us.

By lowliness, we are to understand humility - that which is opposed to pride.

Meekness is that excellent disposition of the soul which makes man unwilling to provoke others and not easily provoked by the infirmities of others, and opposed to angry resentment and peevishness.

Longsuffering implies a patient bearing of injuries without seeking revenge.

Forbearing one another in love, signifies bearing the infirmities of others out of a principle of love: that is - not to cease to love them because of their infirmities.

Sanctified people need to bear one with the other: to provoke one another's graces and not their passions. In this love, we will find the means to forgive others as readily as we forgive ourselves. Without these things, unity cannot be preserved.

The Apostle tells us that the first step toward unity is humility. Without this there will be no meekness, no patience or forbearance; and, without these, no unity. Pride and passion break the peace and make all the evil and mischief in the world. Humility and meekness restore the peace and keep it. Only by pride comes contention; only by humility comes love.

"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." Eph 4:3

The nature of that unity prescribed by Paul is the unity of the spirit. The unity that comes to those who are sanctified is not in one set of thoughts, nor in any form or fashion that we use; it is not the way we hold services or because we all sing or shout alike. But the unity that the Apostle speaks of comes in each heart and each soul. This unity and peace comes from uniting the human with the divine. This comes by no other than Christ and is the fruit of the spirit.

Thus, we should endeavor to keep this peace. Endeavor is a gospel word meaning we must do our utmost. If others seek to quarrel with us, we must take all possible care not to quarrel with them. If others will despise and hate us, we must not despise or hate them. Peace is a bond. It unites people and makes them live friendly one with another. A peaceable love, one for the other, unites sanctified people; whereas discord and quarreling disbands them and destroys this love and affection.

"I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

ST JOHN 17:15-17

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*"I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me,
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.
I love Your voice, you have led me through the fire;
In the darkest night, you are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father,
I've known You as a Friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God.
And all my life You have been faithful!
And all my life You have been so, so good!
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.*

- JASON INGRAN, BRIAN JOHNSON, ED CASH, BEN FIELDING, JENN JOHNSON

TIDINGS

The bond of peace is the strength of our people. Many slender twigs, bound together, become strong. This does not mean that all the twigs have to be of the same length or the same thickness. Neither do we all have to have the same sentiments and judgments. But the bond of peace unites us regardless of our sentiments or our likes and dislikes of material things. Let us remember the twigs: though they be of different lengths and different strengths, when they are bound together they are stronger than any - even the thickest and strongest - was of itself.

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph 4:4-6 We learn from the Apostle that a body has one heart or head, and

stature of the fullness of Christ:" Eph. 4:11-13

The Apostle goes on to tell us that there is a "variety of gifts". Even though we agree in so many things, there are some things wherein we differ. But this should breed no difference of affection among us, since they are all derived from the same God and designed for the same great ends.

We find in the lives of Paul and Apollos that they were different in their approach to the people and it began to divide the people. Paul spoke up and told them they were all working for God - one planteth, another watereth, but God gives the increase. So let it be with us. Let us all use the gifts he has given us for His honor and His glory; let nothing be done through strife or vain glory.

Let us think of Christ's ascension. When it is said that



all that body is governed by the one heart. So it is with the body of Christ incorporated by one charter - that of the gospel; animated by one spirit, who by His gifts and graces, quickens, enlivens and governs that body. If we belong to Christ, we are all actuated by one and the same spirit and, therefore, would be one "even as ye are called in one hope of your calling."

Hope here is the object - the thing hoped for, the heavenly inheritance to which we are called. All sanctified people are called to the same hope of eternal life. There is one Christ, head of the church, who was appointed by God and to whom we are all subject; one faith, that is the gospel containing the doctrine; and by faith in this doctrine, we were all saved. There is one baptism, by which we submerge ourselves into this faith, being baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. There is "one God and Father of all, who is above you all and through all and in you all." Is it not easy to see why we shall all be "one"?

"And He gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the

He ascended, this implies that He first descended: for what is it but proof or demonstration of His having done so. This we can observe: Christ humbled Himself first, and then He was exalted. He descended first, and then He ascended.

The one great gift that Christ gave to the world and of which we are the recipients, is the gift of reconciliation - being reconciled to God by His son. All of this came about - using the Apostle's words - "For the perfecting of the Saints;" to bring, if you will, an orderly spiritual state to those of us who had been, as it were, dislocated and disjointed by sin, so that each in his proper place and function might contribute to the good of all: using all these varied gifts that we might dispense the Doctrine of the Gospel of Christ and successfully discharge our duties to Him for the edifying of the body of Christ - that is to build up the church - until we all come in the unity of the faith. And never can we come unto the fullness of the stature of Christ until we learn and practice self denial.

Let us be Christians of maturity. There is a fullness to be derived from Him. A measure of that fullness is assigned to every sanctified person. God help us to use it to upbuild His kingdom.

- cont. on pg. 3

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Eph. 4:14-16

Let us practice the art of being knit together in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, so making a perfect man: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, like ships without ballast, and carried about like clouds in the air, with every wind of doctrine, by which the enemy seeks to destroy us; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. There is no love where there is no truth and where there is love and truth, there we find peace. Christ is the head and when we grow, we honor our head.

God help us to love one another and help one another and work together, making the mystical body of Christ, which is the church, work as smoothly as our natural bodies. Let us, therefore, leave it to God to determine the measure of gifts to each one; I pray that the Lord will help me to use the measure given to me for His honor and glory. Mutual love among sanctified people is the greatest friend to spiritual growth. It is in love that the body edifies itself; whereas, a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.

- Bro. George H. Miller, Sr.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:10

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." St. John 15:13



When I think of brotherly love and unity, I can't help but think about something Sis. Amy Copeland told me one time, "Love is sacrifice." This is a simple statement that carries big meaning. The world today seems to have the definition of love twisted. I see people that think Love is about what they can get or gain out of a relationship. The "what have you done for me lately" mindset. The life of Jesus is calling us to something deeper and greater than this. Jesus laid down His life as a sacrifice so that we could have the unity of the Holy Spirit. Without His great sacrifice we could never have true fellowship with God and His people. The Holy Spirit is what binds all of us together and keeps us going in the same direction. The Holy Spirit is what has sustained our fellowship since 1892 and it alone will be what carries us on while the ages roll. What an awesome opportunity we have to lay down our lives as a sacrifice for the betterment of the Gospel and the Church!

Is there anything in our lives that is holding us back from true unity in the church? Are we willing to sacrifice to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace? Are we willing to kindly love our brethren and prefer one another? Let us all live in such a way that it is easy for others to serve God!

- Bro. Stephen Copeland

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." - John Fawcett (1782)

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"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be
likeminded, having the same
love, being of one accord, of one
mind."

Philippians 2:2