

THE FATHER'S LONGING: THE UNITY OF HIS CHILDREN

Houses of Light Church • May 23 y 24, 2020 • Pastor Netz Gómez

Jn. 17:21-23

"that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." (NKJV)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In **Jn. 17** is the priestly prayer of Christ for His own and contains His desire and His cry for us and therefore the Father's desire for all His children. The Father is so happy when His children are united and honored. It is very difficult for a father when his children fight and divide. I personally love when my daughters are united and I don't like it when they don't grasp all that they can achieve and contribute if they just unite and recognize what is in the others.
- B. Jesus asks the Father for unity at such a level that it is like that of the Father and Himself. Can you imagine what kind of unity they have? Jesus and the Father have lived in perfect unity since eternity past, they have the same great objective and plan; do not pursue different interests, or counterbalance each other's purposes, or form parties, but seek the same ends by the same means, and this should be the model on which Christians should act with the same understanding that we are thus we united with them to the point that the world will believe.
- C. The fruit that Jesus mentions of this kind of unity is that the world will believe that the Father sent Jesus; and the reason is because that love and unity between the brethren can only come from the fact that the Father and the Son dwell in us; they are going to say: it has to be God who produces this unity to the point that they are going to believe in Him it comes from God.
- D. The demonstration of mutual love between us shows that we really are His disciples. Our love for each other shows that they really follow His teachings and own His life. This gives evidence that Jesus really is who he says he is. It vindicates His teaching and glorifies Him.
- E. This really seems impossible because even though we share so many things we still allow too many things not to separate. But when we are in the Son and we have His love we can overcome all our reasons and excuses to be divided to the point that the world is going to believe that it is true that the Father sent Jesus.
- F. This unit is not imposed; it comes from the relationship that each believer has with our heavenly Father, which makes us brethren; It is not simply

uniting for the sake of unity itself, like ecumenism, but it is the love that we genuine believers have.

- G. **Last week we were blessed to be in an online meeting with people and leaders from all over the world and when we saw the love of these leaders we were amazed at the maturity and stature of these men;** There was David Damian, Mike and Diane Bickle, Asher Intrater, Bill Johnson, and Francis Chan, and we hear things I've never heard.
- H. **David Damian** who is a leader of the 'Home Coming' movement who has promoted unity to a level never seen before told us something about his family: *'When we were young, my father was a school principal and my parents lived for their children and we all wanted to be excellent to please my father. I had a good grade once; and I waited for dinner and I said: look at the rating I got. My dad could be happy but he was not; so I went to my mom and asked her: what's wrong with my dad? I know my dad and she told me: your two brothers fought and he can't he doesn't enjoy dinner if his children are divided. God said to me: David, your success brings joy to my heart, but when my children are divided, my Spirit mourns.*
- I. **This happens to me not only with my daughters but also with our leaders, when I get to hear that he or she does not want to work with so and so or that they have misunderstandings; It really hurts and I think that after so much teaching about forgiveness we should be quick to forgive and re-establish healthy relationships.**
- J. Jesus prayed something very powerful (v.22) "The glory you gave me, I have given them, so that they may be one, just as we are one"
- K. Jesus has given us the glory that the Father gave Him so that we may be one. The word '*glory*' in Greek is 'doxa' **and it means good opinion that results in praise and honor, he estimates. Splendor shine of the stars; dignity; majesty corresponding to him as supreme king. Then the glory refers to the fame that the Father gave to Christ and that He has shown us to the disciples and that is what causes this unity.**

II. WE MUST CONTINUE TO LEARN TO HONOR ONE ANOTHER

Ro. 12:10 *"Love each other with genuine affection,[e] and take delight in honoring each other."* (NTV)

- A. As parents we never feel that it is too much when someone speaks well of our children. When they speak well of my daughters I am the happiest father. The same thing happens to Heavenly Father.
- B. There is a difference between honor and flattery; the person who flatters is wanting to get something out. **Flattery is the falsification of honor. Honor recognizes what God does and imparts life to others. For many of us receiving honor is difficult because of the subtle pride that we have.**
- C. Bill Johnson the pastor of Bethel ministry in Redding was commenting on an experience he had: *I was looking at Charisma magazine, I enjoy it; there is*

advertising for conferences and books; And I noticed that I felt very indifferent when I saw the photos of the leaders; and that indifference was isolating me; when I got to the end of the magazine; I realized that I was indifferent because I was suspicious of their authenticity, but what I did is that I kept looking at them until I felt the Lord's pleasure for them; It took me time but I didn't want to let that not be part of my life. I am happy for this victory.

- D. **This is the heart of a mature man and used by God and should also be the goal of our heart. We still need with the grace of God to learn to respond better to those who feel disgusted, resentful, or offended.**
- E. **Bill Johnson commented on his father; "My dad was a man of honor, when there was a great division in our church. The following Sunday only 65 people came to an auditorium for 600. My father lived with such honor; horrible things they did to him and it really wasn't something he cared about. In fact the leader who caused the entire division his wife got sick and my dad went to the hospital to pray for her; • My dad kept the door open through honor. This man asked my dad to do the funeral and he did it; All this spoke of the importance of honor. • My dad was a man who celebrated diversity in the body of Christ.**
- F. *He continued commenting: There are 5 men in my life who have spoken ill of life about my conferences and my books; And what I do is I pray for the prosperity that fills their lives; in your spirit, soul and body. May God grant you children who love the Lord. I have no right to bring a complaint from the Father about one of his children. He concluded by saying: "We live so that the beauty of the bride can be seen."*
- G. **This is the heart of a man, a woman mature in God and by the grace of God we must reach this level. This is what Jesus prayed in His cry to the Father for us:**
- H. **Jn. 17:23 "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me"**
- I. **Jesus is in us and the Father is in Jesus, so that our unity is perfect and again that will show the world that the Father sent the Son; and that the Father has loved us with the same intensity that he loves Jesus himself. This is our glorious reality: WE ARE PERFECTLY AND TOTALLY LOVED WITH THAT SAME INTENSITY THAT THE FATHER LOVES THE SON, THAT IS WHY WE CAN LOVE THOSE WHOM WE CONSIDER DIFFICULT TO TOLERATE.**
- J. **Another thing that surprised me about this conversation with these men of God was that they said that: *The way that Satan accuses the brothers before the throne of God is through the brothers who have been born again complain about each other because Satan does not have access to the throne of God.***

K. That we can defend our brothers from the accusations of the enemy. The more we walk in love capable of confronting what has so hurt the Body of Christ. Today I want to honor the Houses of Light leadership team:

III. WE ARE GOING TO CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT TO BREAK ALL DIVISION BETWEEN US AND DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO BE ONE IN CHRIST

Mat. 26:26-29 *"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, [c]blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."*

27 *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the [d]new covenant, which is shed for many for the [e]remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."*

A. The sacrament was instituted by the Lord as the fulfillment of Easter; eating the bread represents that we partake of the body of Christ that was crushed for our sins and drinking the cup is partaking of the blood of the covenant.

B. When Paul is correcting the Corinthian church in reference to the mistakes they were making in celebrating it, he touches on several points that shed light on the meaning and precautions that we must because holy supper is something sacred.:

1 Cor. 11:23-25 *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is [e]broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me»*

C. HOLY SUPPER IS A PROCLAMATION OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST UNTIL HE RETURNS:

1 Cor. 11:26 *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."*

a. So in doing what we are going to do **WE SHOULD EXAMINE OURSELVES BEFORE EATING AND DRINKING THE CUP.** We must consider both the Meaning and how sacred it is as well as our relationship with the members of the body of Christ.

b. Among the Corinthians there were divisions and lack of consideration among them. v.20 They went ahead to eat, there was no sense of honor; one only ate his own dinner; others were hungry and others got drunk. v.22 Paul says to them: *why don't they have houses where they can eat whatever they want?* They were belittling the church and embarrassing those who had no sustenance.

D. **THERE IS A REAL DANGER:** If we partake of the sacrament without discerning what we are doing we are bringing ourselves to judgment:

1 Cor. 11:30 *"For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep"*

E. **The judgment is severe: weakness, illness, and even death.** But if we repent of this then the opposite is manifested: strength, healing and life. God may be giving us strength, healing, and life through unity. **WHEN WE COMMUNE WITH THE RIGHT SPIRIT IT MUST BE A TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE.**

a. **v.31** If you do it carefully and carefully then you avoid a judgment.

b. **v.33-34** Paul's conclusion is that we should consider one another, expect to honor one another. so that their meetings were not a reason for condemnation. • **God wants to test our honor for each other.**

F. **LET'S PRAY:** *Lord, may Your heart never be broken by our divisions, strife and resentment. today we reject all division. Give us your heart to see others. Please show us how much we are offended and resentful and declare total forgiveness. Enough speaking negatively in the name of Jesus !!*

* Next week we are going to talk about what we have felt about the reopening.