

## Unity in the Body – Romantic wishful thinking or a necessity?

Is it a coincidence that *that which is most important, which has the most powerful potency and impact, is so contested all along?*

Before His death, Jesus asked His Father *more than anything else* for exactly *one thing*:

**„I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me (...), protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. (...) “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.“** (John 17: 9-23<sup>NIV</sup>)

How much longer, I ask, should things still continue like this?

How much longer do we - *as leaders as well as common believers* - continue to strive only for ourselves, our church/ministry/denomination/group ect. and despise the others? How much longer do we blaspheme other brethren, do we condemn those who think differently, have a slightly different theology and different habits than we do? (Whereby, *according to Jesus*, we will at some point have to give account for *every useless word!* - Cf. Mt 12:36) How much longer do we cling to blame, accusation, and unforgiveness while expecting *God's* forgiveness for all our sins?

How much longer do we still walk in the “**acts of the flesh**“, which are „**enmity, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy**“, which *do not* allow us to inherit the kingdom of God? (Gal 5:19-21<sup>NIV/ESV</sup>)

When do we return to Jesus, realize and fulfill *His last will*?

How much fruitless occupation does it still take until we realize:

*One thing* is necessary! To search for God, to recognize His heart, and to let ourselves be changed deeply accordingly by Him and His word.

We are constantly talking about the “Body of Christ“, but when do we understand: A body is *useless* as long as each member just does what it wants; without having *such a connection to the head* that it simply follows Him immediately. Simultaneously recognizes the other parts of the body,

honors them and cooperates with them - and no longer does *exactly the opposite*:

Be indifferent about them; think, judge and talk negatively about them; willingly agree with the enemy who daily gives us new *seemingly* “good reasons” not to have community and to collaborate with the others.

So that we rather continue having a *proud opinion* of everything instead of humbly approaching one another. Rather a “good reason” not to love the brother than to fulfill God's deepest will.

Our ultimate call as a church is *to rule* with the Messiah (cf. Rev 20:6, 2:26, 1Cor 1:24), but let us understand:

If only *a city council* is to function and exercise power, then it first needs its members to come together at a table, talk and work together; so that they can finally drive forth decisions in the exercise of their authority.

Why do we *in the body of Christ* not comprehend this, that *only in communion* we can have this great influence that is actually available to us?

And that *we alone, as a small group*, can *never exercise* as a testimony to the world? (Cf. again John 17:33 NIV: “**so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.**”)

Thereby, what the world longs for *most of all*, what it seeks in vain in all kinds of different other places, - *much more still than signs, miracles and even healings, as we often think* - in reality is a community of people in which *real love* reigns and is constantly lived in concrete terms among each other. This is what we need *most* to see revival. This is what will attract and motivate people *most* to sincerely seek Jesus, open up to Him, and join us as a church.

*Then*, I am sure, the mighty acts of God will follow us anyway, and Jesus will let *His body which is truly devoted to Him* do more and greater things than He Himself did back then. Whereby countless people will find *holistic healing* in our midst.

Let us wake up and understand! Know, sure, it is not easy; people are different, they have different backgrounds and theologies, they hurt each other and it takes an incredible amount of humility, patience, mercy, readiness to forgive and perseverance.

But these very things are *Jesus' character*, which we are to get to know and adopt as His “followers” in this life.

And it is worth it if we do this! Each step, where we choose *humility* rather than pride, *prayer for each other* rather than gossip, *forgiveness* instead of accusation, *love* instead of coldness of hearts, *approaching each other and holding out our hands continuously* instead of closing ourselves to each other, we are working a little bit more with Jesus - in His (*gentle* but through persistence *powerful*) way - towards *what he longs for* with unspeakable passion!!! What He has been waiting for for millennia and passionately intercedes for before the Father. What nevertheless *will be fulfilled* despite all the obstacles and traps of the enemy:

That we as "His Body" enter into *humility*, learn to truly recognize and love each other. That the world thereon recognizes who Jesus is and is drawn to Him. By this, the time approaches when even Israel - *not least through our repentance and love in the global body* - recognizes its Messiah (cf. Romans 11: 11-26) and He returns. That the kingdom of God will be established on earth, but Jesus will also *judge*.

That many who are now *last* will be *first*. That many who are now faithful in the small matters will be masters over cities (Lk 19:17), while other leaders who *now, despite much activity*, miss God's heart (which is *love!*) will suffer great loss. (Confer 1Cor 3:12-15, 1Cor 13)

Jesus is coming! God's eternal kingdom is coming!

The question is, do you *now* want to learn *His ways*, true obedience and uniformity with Him, and thereby join Him building His kingdom in His way?

Or do you want to ambitiously keep on going your own ways and those of the world? Perhaps outwardly *even in a spectacular way* serve God and build His temple, but *not according to His blueprint*?

It takes *humility*, it takes *willingness to repent, trust, obedience* and above all one thing: *Love*.

Which is *patient, kind, not envying; not boasting, not puffed up, not proud; not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered; keeping no record of wrongs, but forgiving; rejoicing with the truth*.

It requires love which *bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things*; which *never ends*.

Who is ready for *this*? Who signs up for *this kind of ministry*?

Jesus is waiting here. For His body and for you.