

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Great Communion Service
Crestwood Christian Church
Lexington, KY
November 1, 2009
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John 17:6-26

“...that they may all be one...”

What was/is so important about unity that Jesus takes his last moments before his arrest to pray about it?

Or ask the opposite question...What is so destructive to the Kingdom about dis-unity that Jesus prays so desperately?

e.g. Kids today say, “Don’t ‘dis’ me.” That is a kind of disunity

e.g. Parents understand the grief and pain that come when our children fight, argue; cannot get along when what we long for is peace and unity in the home.

Jesus knew our human nature,

Our need to have it our way (just like Burger King...hmm, they figured us out and it worked!)

Our need to “be” right

So, he prays---

1) for his disciples, that they won’t be sifted

But not just for them, this small band but also

2) for whomever might be won thru them, by this Word

So Christ not only prays for his little band, but for you and for me.

He prays for Unity so that

1) the world will find this message to be Authentic

2) the world will know God’s love

This prayer doesn’t sound so complicated on the surface but....

We have taken our opinions and elevated them to Essentials; We have forgotten St. Paul’s advice in Romans 14:22 regarding opinions, “Whatever you come to believe about these things, keep it between you and God.”

**Yet, something marvelous happens when we are called to this Table; When God invites us, we summon our best manners. It is God’s invitation and something in us behaves.

Aiden Kavenaugh, Professor of Liturgics at Notre Dame and then at Yale, says that the purpose of Ritual is to communicate beyond the limits of words.

I do not have enough words tonight to communicate all that this Table means. You and I will think about many things.

At this Table we are:

- 1) Reminded of the Cost which
--outweighs our own Opinions
- 2) Reminded of the Sacrifice which
--outweighs our own sinful selfishness
- 3) Reminded of the Gift which
--outweighs the poverty of our pettiness

There is Something about this Table!

Here at this table we discover that Unity has to be about Essentials; Not everything is essential. BUT THE TABLE IS and we all know it; we all get it.

We Remember---

It is Gods table, God's Invitation

And I have no voice in advising God who God needs to invite or not invite

This Invitation is about Relationships...

This Table MAKES us One.