

## **Hebrews 2:11-13**

### **All of One United...**

What manner of relationship do we have with Christ? What manner of relationship do we have with one another? What manner of relationship do we have with mankind and the nations. These are the things beginning to grow out of the truth that God has made Christ fully man, and in Him has offered and accepted the payment on our behalf. The Scripture shows us the connection that is present between us and Christ and through Him, to God. We are bound together with Him, and we are "all of one". So let us approach this passage and think together about what it means to be "all of one".

#### **I. UNITED WITH CHRIST**

##### **a. Christ the Sanctifier –**

Sanctify - to cause someone to have the quality of holiness—‘to make holy. He does this by becoming our substitute, our representative. He paid the price of death that our sins earned and

stood in our place under the wrath of God. But He also in doing this became the firstfruits of God's promises to us.

b. Has Sanctified Us –

1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJV)

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

This is referencing **Leviticus 2.14 - 16**. The firstfruit was crushed and mixed with oil and spices (frankincense) then burned, consumed. This part was taken as representative of the whole harvest. And is so doing the whole harvest was sanctified. He possesses one common nature with us all. He and we are of the same nature, of one mass, of one blood. And hereby he came to suffer for them, and we are in a capacity of enjoying the benefit of his sufferings. By His death we are saved, but also by His death and resurrection we are sanctified.

### c. Christ United With us

Wondrously, Christ looks upon our union with Him as actual. He stoops to be counted as one with us, and He shows great condescension in doing so

- i. He was fully human but was without sin. Yet still He draws us to Himself to cleanse us rather than assuming that we would infect him with our sinfulness
- ii. Our condition is full of miseries, that are themselves terrible and horrifying to anyone who ventures near. He came into the prison and the furnace to own us as his own...
- iii. He is so very far above us in the place and dignity to which He is destined.
- iv. He is infinitely above us in the nature which is His own. Yet He condescends to own us as brothers

Phil 2.5-11

*John Owen writes: “He is and was “God over all, blessed for ever.” He did not so become man as to cease to be God. Though he drew a veil over his infinite glory, yet he parted not with it. He who calls us brethren, who suffered for us, who died for us, was God still in all these things.”*

And consider that if He called us brothers while we were still so very ruined and hateful toward Him, how much more will He draw near when He has finished His work and sanctified us fully to the likeness of His glory!

This is absolutely unspeakably comforting to us, for NOTHING has ever been or ever will be that would make Christ forsake us, we who are His, are His forever!!

## **II. UNITED WITH ONE ANOTHER**

This union binds us to Christ but is also binds us together with the church. It is how God calls us to see ourselves. We must never therefore be

ashamed of Him, of how the world sees Him, of the thoughts and opinions of self-important, self-seeking insolent men and women. We must never allow that the ways of the world would turn us away from love and devotion to Christ!

Nor dare we allow that the same things keep us from loving the church of God, the bride of the risen Savior. Who is drawn from every people, every tongue, every tribe and every nation upon the earth. His bride comes from all over the world and is not made up of people that look like us! The outward look and manner of the flesh is NOTHING in the eyes of God, if someone is born of Christ, they are our brothers.

a. United We are Brethren –

you see, if two people have the same brother, what are they to each other? Are they not also siblings? Brothers or sisters? This is the truth of the matter. And this is the nature of the church. We are brothers, we are sisters, we are family. What affects one, affects us all. It is crucial that

we grapple with this, that we engage ourselves with the fact of our relationship within the body of Christ. We must genuinely love one another and genuinely bear one another's burdens.

- i. Aid in times of trouble
- ii. Comfort in times of sorrow
- iii. Connection in times of loneliness
- iv. Safety and protection in times of danger
- v. Accountability in times of trial and temptation
- vi. Rebuke in times of sin
- vii. Restoration in times of repentance

We are all united and we all bear a responsibility for one another for we are family!

b. United We are Worshipers –

we are to declare the praises of the Father as we gather together. We are the church of God. Worship is what we do! So in whatever form you are with us, worship with us! Whether you are with us here or via technology in its many forms you are here to worship. Not to critique a sermon, or a preacher or someone else's clothes

or attitude. We are here to worship. SO turn your attention to the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and WORSHIP!!

c. United We are Missionaries –

but there is also another connotation here. And that is missions. For the declaration of the name of God that is the heart of worship is also about the teaching of who He is, the praise of His attributes. This is missions.

### **III. UNITED WITH THE ALL THE WORLD**

Consider this well! We have family of which we do not know. We have brothers and sisters who are among the nations and brothers and sisters who are among us who are not yet part of us. This is part of our purpose as the church! We are to declare the full glory and message of God among the nations and among ALL the peoples of THIS nation.

a. We are all of one, and this included the fact that we are all of one blood -

## Acts 17:26–28

b. All the world there

Consider the words of verse 12 which quotes Psalm 22.22

These words are not for the physical descent of Jacob alone, They are about a spiritual bloodline, which included Jew and gentile alike.

## Rom 9.6-8

This is not Pauline alone, for in God's initial promise to Abraham He told the patriarch that in him all the nations of the earth would be blessed...

So who are we to declare the name, the goodness the attributes of God unto?

**All the world which contains our unknown brethren.**



This is something that the church has gotten wrong in many times and in many ways. The apostles fought against the Judaizers. The idea that a person must first become a Jew before he could become a Christian. That the OT law had to be observed in the manner which Israel had to observe it... this was patently wrong, for many of the laws in question were laws that were civil laws given to Israel for their own national government. Others were custom and culture that had grown over millennia and were specific to a time and place which was Jewish.

But the same mistakes are being made today, by the church in the west. We are not to take our worship styles, our culture, our civil laws and transpose them into other cultures and teach them as official doctrine. Part of the glory of Christ's church is that it brings in the essence of Christ, His law and His beauty but translates this wonder through each one He enlivens. We do not need to make them like us to share Christ with them! We need to show them Christ and

help them find in Scripture how they live Him out in the midst of their own culture.

c. All the world here -

But even more insidious is the trend to bring racism into the church and its doctrine. Beloved, hear me. God has made every single person who is out of the same stuff.

### **- 2 Races Only**

The very question of race is mis-applied in the church. There are exactly 2 races on the planet. The saved and the unsaved. And our goal is the salvation of the nations, so seeing the unsaved come to Christ should be our passion above all things. There is NOTHING in scripture which warrants us having any attitude toward other races, colors, cultures or ethnicity which is anything but loving.

**- Love is a desire for their best good. We have been given a trust which we did not earn...**

Here is the truth of the gospel. We possess something that we did not earn in any fashion. We are recipients of grace, of the gift of God's love and mercy, we are not smarter or better or wiser than anyone else. We have simply been given something. And that something is ours in trust. We have been commanded to share it! The writer of Hebrews quotes David, applies it to Christ and extends it to us! This is the burden of the church - we carry the truth of God, the story of Christ, the power of the cross, the forgiveness of His blood and the sanctifying presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. And we carry this wonder to SHARE it!

**- Unity in overcoming obstacles, with God's resources, plans and power**

There is a unity expressed here which is powerful to see, there are obstacles which seem insurmountable. But our God holds all of the resources of the universe and further He has already planned how He is going to convey the powerful transforming light of the gospel to

every single one He has chosen. We need to obey the command to go, and we need to seek His wisdom to know HOW to go. But our willingness should never be an issue. The writer confesses, "I will put my trust in Him". This is still our calling. We are not just to trust Him for our salvation, but we are to trust Him for all things. Including plans, resources, opportunities and everything else needed to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. The task seems impossible sometimes. Particularly for a small church, but I want you think about something with me -

**- Unique opportunity in America – nations represented here as our neighbors**

Here in America, at this time of history, nearly every nation on the earth is represented. You can walk down the street in nearly any metropolitan city and rub shoulders with people from the farthest reaches of the world.

(\*keeping appropriate social distance of course\*)

You don't have to go to Africa to be on mission!  
You don't have to go the jungles of South America, or the south pacific. If God calls you there you do, and you are called to support those who go, but I am suggesting that we are in a unique place to do more than support. We are positioned to send the gospel and share the message to the whole world from our back yard.

**- This chance is our hope that God would not destroy us – America and pentecost**

And this one thing gives me hope for this nation! In spite of the fact that we seem bent on destroying ourselves with every vice, hatred and perversion ever known to man (and have probably invented a few as well) God still tarries in finally destroying us. I have to wonder why, and I think it is that we, the church in America, are positioned to spread the gospel unto the nations like the world has not seen since the day of Pentecost. Now, don't be alarmed I am not suddenly going to start speaking in tongues... but I want you to think about what happened there.

3000 people were saved. They are not all Jewish, they are not all from Israel. There are many there who are from other nations, proselytes who stayed for the feast of Pentecost having been in Jerusalem for Passover. What did they do after they were converted? They stayed in Jerusalem for a while and were taught, but then they WENT HOME and carried the gospel with them. The conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch on the road shows the pattern. He did not get converted there but he was a proselyte, he had been there for the feasts. And when he went home he carried the gospel. And the church spread. Beloved, we need to re-frame our conversation about race and culture. We need to be actively sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with every single nation on earth and we need to be doing it right here.

- **Nations among us are the invitation and appointments that God has fashioned for us this day and in this place!**

We should be delighted to see people from other nations among us, for honestly it is much simpler

for us. We simply have to start talking to them about Christ. But before we can or will do that we have to see them differently. We have to see them as potential brothers and sisters. Every single one, every single time. When God brings someone into your path, there are there for a reason. And that reason is Christ. Period. No exceptions, no exclusions. We must see them in light of the gospel. This is going to be uncomfortable for many of us, it is going to stretch us, it is going to feel awkward. But it is absolutely going to transform both us and our world. These people, whoever they are, and wherever they are from, they just might be our family. They just don't know it yet. And in the most basic terms possible, the gospel is really just searching for lost family. We are on a hunt for those who are our family chosen by our Father, redeemed by our Elder Brother. They are out there, wandering in the darkness, let us go and find them! So that we might say with our Brother,  
"here am I and the children whom God has given me!"