

Tonight my church family is coming together for a Solemn Assembly to kick off 40 days of prayer and fasting. We will be praying 20 specific prayers during these forty days, each prayer for two days. I was asked to lead the congregation in prayer tonight in asking the Lord to cause unity to flourish among us. I was so blessed by soaking in some of the Scriptures that deal with unity that reflects Christ's oneness with the Father that I decided to share them with you. May I suggest that you spend the next week praying for unity and the Spirit of the Love of Jesus to break forth in new levels in you, in your family, in your circle of friends and in your church family? What better way to give living proof that we are His? As a matter of fact, is it not amazing that Paul could write the church at Corinth that **if there was not the unity of love** among their fellowship, **everything** else they did was **useless and a waste**.

If you extract the gifts he mentions in First Corinthians 13, it is an illustrious list:
The gift of tongues
The gift of prophecy
The gift of knowledge
The gift of faith
The gift of generosity
The gift of martyrdom. Wow! What a list!

Now let's consider the effects of using any and all of these gifts without unity, without love for the brethren, without the humility such unity and love demands.

Resounding gong (remember the Gong Show???)
Clanging cymbal
I **am** nothing.
I **gain** nothing. Wow! What an awful list!

What is Paul saying? He is saying that Christ's love in us, pouring out of us manifests itself in ways that last forever, in ways that produce divine results that lead others to Him. Here is what His love pouring out of us looks like:

Christ's love in us is patient.
Christ's love in us is kind.
Christ's love in us delights in others' blessings.
Christ's love in us is self-effacing.
Christ's love is humble.
Christ's love in us is polite.
Christ's love in us seeks the welfare of others.
Christ's love in us has a long, long fuse.

Christ's love in us forgets other's sins against us.
Christ's love in us is delighted with the real truth.
Christ's love in us always protects others.
Christ's love in us hopes when all hope is lost.
Christ's love in us perseveres when everyone else has given up.

Before I share the heart of the Father straight from Scripture, may I give you a challenge? Would you join me in asking Father to begin exploding the reality of these Scriptures in your own personal life? Beloved, revival starts in my heart and in yours. The real move of God awaits individuals who will lay themselves down before Him, renounce their own divisive attitudes, abandon selfish thoughts towards others, and replace them with the truth of how Father thinks of them and of us. And how did He think of others and of us personally? He loves them, He loves us. His love has virtually compelled Him from all eternity to not just speak of His affection for us, but to act upon it. Could we do any less? So let's ask Him with everything in us, to let His unity with the Father be reflected as never before by our unity with Him and with one another.

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, **beseech you** to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,
2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with one another in love,**
3 endeavoring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

1 Cor 1:10 Now **I plead with you**, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all **speak the same thing**, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you **be perfectly joined together** in the **same mind** and in the **same judgment**.

Col. 3:12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;**

John 17:11b. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that they may be one** as We are.

John 17:20-23. I do not pray for these alone, but also **for those who will believe in Me through their word;**
21 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 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.

Romans 12:10 **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.**
Honor one another above yourselves.

Acts 1:14. These all continued **with one accord** in prayer and supplication.....

Acts 2:1 **When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

Acts 4:32 Now the multitude of those who believed **were of one heart and one soul**;.....**v.33**and great grace was upon them all. **34. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked.....**

Lord Jesus, brand me with your brand of Holy Love that I might so accept Your love as to be liberated to love others the way You love me. I love You, my Beloved.