



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Here is guest devotional while I am playing nurse to Phama after knee surgery. This one was shared with me by David Watson. I added the hymn.

Scripture

John 17:20-23

²⁰ I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Reflection

We, the Church, are God's true, image bearing community. When the Church has unity and love for one another, the loving unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is reflected into the world. As the world sees our unity and love, it will know that Jesus was sent by God as the only way of salvation. What an inspiring, intimidating thought! As you prayerfully feel the weight of this responsibility, first remember that Jesus, in his hour of crisis, prayed for you (v. 20+21). This should be a source of great relief! Second, be deliberate. How can you build community with other believers? Are you distant from anyone at First CRC for seemingly "legitimate" reasons? Why not have dinner with them soon? Last, pray for the Spirit to grow you in this area of your life.

Song

Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

We are One in The Spirit

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

We are One in The Spirit, We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit, We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our Love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, We will work side by side.
We will work with each other, We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the News that God is in our land. *Chorus*

("They'll Know We Are Christians", words by Peter Schottes © 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

***II Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Pray: John 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.

“I am inspired and intimidated, Father, at the thought of being one with my fellow believers in the same way that you are one with your Son. I am inspired because I genuinely, deeply desire to know that unity. I am desperate to have that unity as the substance of my life. But, God, I am also intimidated because I know how often I fail. I know there are those in the church that I judge and avoid. Thank you, Jesus, for praying for me. Thank you for knowing I would struggle with this responsibility. Please, Holy Spirit, grow this love in me, that I would overflow with a desire to be unified with my fellow Christ followers.”