

Listen To His Desire And Follow His Will

“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. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:20-23)

People when they are about to leave the world or when they feel the time for their departure is near they resort to write down their wills. Wills before death are usually written by people who are well-known by their authorities or their treasures. Last will and testament describes the aim of person in life, whether for scientific progress, or for the sake of philanthropic work, for social, political or religious welfare. Wills usually in contents have two main things: **1)** directly or indirectly to glorify the person in himself. **2)** His greatest desire for other people, whether positive or negative, in account to his relationship with them.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ gave us everything with the promise of eternal life that was paid by His death on the cross. As we are reminded from the Holy Bible, on the third day when the women and His disciples visited the tomb they did not find the Lord's body (for He was raised from the dead). And they questioned, ‘where is His body?’ This same question we ask ourselves, “Where is the Lord's body?” With full gratitude and with clear conscience of responsibility we should proclaim “He entrusted His body to us!”

Today's passage is part of Jesus' longest recorded prayer in the Bible (**John Chapter 17**). And this prayer is well-known in the scholar media as the highly priest prayer where Jesus prayed for Himself, for His disciples, and then for all the believers who will believe in Him through the message of His disciples (**John 17:20**). Evidently, the last part of Jesus' prayer is addressed for us. And He uttered this prayer just before His arrest, His crucifixion and death” **that all of them may be one**”. This is His desire and His will for us, His church who represents His body. He wants us to stay in unity, to keep his body as one, (though the soldiers divided His garment!)

To reach digestible values and pragmatic discernible points that we can apply in our lives with contented hearts inside the church and in relation with other churches around us, we revert to a lawyer who clarifies the will of Christ with these two supporting verses:”**Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all others.**” (**Romans 12:4-5**) And to lay open HIS WILL we must consider that:

1) Diversity is a key for the Unity: All our differences in shapes, colours and races, and all the variations that we have in our talents, jobs and professions, all the diversities that we may carry in regard to the nations, customs, habits and cultures we belong, it might be similar to the numerous and various colours of the spiritual gifts that we harbour in our bodies. Sharing these gifts between one another is the goal. And this when achieved will lead to unity, satisfaction and independence from the world. But, to share these gifts we need the love of God to be abundant in our hearts. **“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)** For the sake of unity “the wall of flesh hostility must collapse to achieve unity”.

2) Jesus' Resurrection is the manifestation of complete Unity: No one has all the spiritual gifts except Jesus Christ. When we all express and share the various gifts that are given to us in a programmed dynamic way, the world will not recognize the church members as individuals but they will see the church as one body united. Unity will give Jesus the glory, because the world will see and they will say “Jesus is alive in them”, as He said (**I in them...**). And this will give the church and all members the glory, (**I have given them the glory that you gave me...**).

3) Unity is the vessel to distribute God's love to the world: Unity is the expression of God's love that we received and we give to others. To share the spiritual gifts in a healthy way will express the full meaning of the divine love of God that we get and pass to others. Certainly, we cannot evangelize properly and share the love of Jesus to others without unity in the church.

4) Unity brings the picture of the True God: As we express the love of God in our lives, we can be a good example and perfect witness to all the world about the nature of the true and loving Father, the God we worship. (...**just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us...**)

5) Unity is the way to Victory: (**May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me...**) When the world will see that Jesus is alive in us and when they will see the true picture of the loving God, they will seek to find the way to Him and they will believe in Jesus, the way to the Father. This is a victory and there is more...

6) Trinity manifested by Unity: Christian unity will emphasize and will reflect the unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (**That they may be one as we are one**). Then this will be the great victory of Christ and His church.

My Dear and Beloved: Our King gave us and entrusted us His body and He prayed for the unity. We received more glory and more honour but, granted! “More honour means more responsibilities”. Brethren, the King when he turns toward his army to give them the order to fight he wants his soldiers ready and wearing the uniform of unity, without division. We need to remember, ‘Nothing less than complete unity can satisfy the Saviour’. God bless our church bountifully.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to do my part to bring unity to your body. Help me Lord to do that and equip me to be a faithful witness to you, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.