

God's Call to Unity

What should we do when internal conflict, confusion and division plague a Christian community? The apostle Paul showed us in Ephesians 3:13-21 what is best under the circumstances when he prayed to God to strengthen His flock with the power of His Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in the hearts of all.

God has called us into a fellowship with Himself and with one another so that He may be present in all of us, so that we are able to recognize Jesus in others, even in their brokenness and shortcomings, so that we may respond to situations according to the ways and principles of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

God's community is the venue where we can love and pray without constraint - not to accuse or be accused, not to judge and be judged.

God has blessed us with a community so that we become more prayerful, our lives transformed into a prayer and offering. If we miss our primary vocation to pray, we find ourselves in a state of disarray.

Going into deep prayer, we ought to pray for one another and ask for God's grace - for the aggrieved, to be merciful and forgiving, to accept the shortcomings of God's people and for the imperfect person that we all are, to be equally humble, seek reconciliation and find ways to alleviate the hurt that seems to destroy the good disposition of people. In every way, we ought to step down from our thrones of pride and arrogance, as God is not happy to see a flock that is at odds with one another.

Prayer can break down barriers, defense mechanisms, cold and indifferent hearts as God's indwelling presence in us makes us authentic and sincerely humble. We are able to die to self amidst the pain in our hearts, the life of our Resurrected Christ upon us, the gloom of a winter morning erased and with the promise of a renewed life in Easter springing up to flow into our hearts.

With prayer we have power! With the Holy Spirit we can resolve all issues! With God in our hearts, everything is possible!

Let us remember St. Paul and his exhortation to the church in Ephesus, "...putting away falsehood, speak the truth, be angry but do not sin; no foul language should come out of your mouths, do not grieve the holy Spirit of God. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, be kind, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." Ephesians 4:25-32