



“Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Embracing the Future”.

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare beautiful treasures. How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.” (Proverbs 24:3-4; Genesis 28:17 – NIV).

This Week’s Thought – October 21, 2018

“From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” Ephesians 4:16 (ESV)

Paul begins this chapter of Ephesians 4 by reminding the people of the Church in Corinth of the calling that they’ve received, but what does Paul say is the major task confronting the Church? What is the goal towards which we should be working? Part of it, from Ephesians chapter 1, is that we’re to be blameless and holy in God’s sight. Partly it’s that we might live to God’s glory.

Likewise, in Ephesians chapter 2, we’ve been created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. But that, I would suggest, is only an adjunct to the real calling that Paul is talking about here. For in Ephesians 3:10, our calling is that through the Church the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rest of creation. Go back further to Ephesians 1:10. God’s plan for the world, and in particular, for the Church, is that all things should be brought together under one head, even Christ.

So today as we celebrate our **Church’s 130th Anniversary**...thinking about the unity of the Church; how does that unity arise in us and how is it to be maintained?

- A. It depends on our Christian character.**
- B. It Arises from the Unity of our God.**
- C. It’s enriched by the diversity of gifts.**
- D. It demands our growth to maturity.**



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The end result of all this is that as a Church we grow up into Christ, *“from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, (notice this) as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”* Again, every part is needed. Every part needs to be working properly for the body to be built up.

Application: So how can a diverse body like the Church achieve the sort of unity that God desires? By growing up. By becoming more like Christ as we grow into Him. So speak the truth in love, and grow into Christ who is our Head, Do your part in bringing the Church to maturity, to unity, to the full stature of Christ.

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: **“Heavenly Father 1 Corinthians 3:9 NLT, reminds us: ‘We work together as partners who belong to You.’ Therefore, whether we plant or water, it is Your plan that we work together in You! You have made no mistakes in leading all of us. Even in the hard places You are working out what is best...not only for us and for others, but ultimately for Your Kingdom. You are not looking at our statistics to measure us; You are looking at our heart to see if we are faithful. The results of our obedience are for You to determine, but we rest assure knowing that Your Presence will keep us together and keep us strong. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”**

“And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.”
Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King