

Theme for 2021

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!

‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’

“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”

John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)



This Week’s Thought – May 2, 2021

“Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32, New Living Translation (NLT)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” One of the greatest ways God puts to use what He puts us through or what we’ve put ourselves through is by creating in us a deeper sense of compassion than we would have ever known without the trauma. The word compassion is derived from the Latin words *pati* and *cum*, meaning *“to suffer with.”* Compassion for brokenness and pain comes from brokenness and pain.

When we hold the hands of weary friends, not as people who can fix their problems, but as people who understand their pain and *“suffer with”* them. It gives them comfort. *“I’ll walk through this with you. I get it. I may not understand the particulars of your struggle, but I do understand disappointment and heart-wrenching pain.”* **Only when we have experienced our own disappointment can we sympathize and empathize with the disappointment of others.**

“Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted and keep a humble attitude. Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.” (1 Peter 3:8-9, NLT)

The word translated “*compassion/sympathize*” in this verse is the Greek word *parakalōn*. It comes from the root words *para* and *kaleo*, which mean “*to call near, to invite, invoke.*” When we tell our stories to someone who is hurting, we come near to them and our words comfort them.

When you share the comfort that you have experienced in your struggles, in your hurts, in your pains. When you’re honest and vulnerable with the facts, it lets the hearer believe there is hope for a better story. God doesn’t comfort us just to make us comfortable. He comforts us in order to make us comfort-*able*—able to comfort others. When we keep our stories to ourselves, we deny others the comfort that is ours to give.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:3–4, NIV)

Application: Who can you express sympathy as well as empathy to someone who is hurting and in need of a healing heart?

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, grow my heart of empathy to reflect Your Heart of empathy, through Christ’s Love. I await Your Voice. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King