

We Are God's People

1. We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of his Spirit, established by his Word;
our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in him we stand:
O let us live transparently, and walk heart to hear and hand in hand.
2. We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
now let us learn how to return the gift of love once giv'n:
O let us share each job and care, and live with a zeal that pleases heav'n.
3. We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall his work on earth be done.
4. We are a temple, the Spirit's dwelling place,
formed in great weakness, a cup to hold God's grace;
we die alone, for on its own each member looses fire:
yet joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light,
and to inspire.

Taking Gathered Worship

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Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in Acts

Week of February 4, 2007

The Essence of the Church

Daily Devotionals

These verses exhort us to love and humility. A love that is displayed in our unity through Christ and the Holy Spirit, and a humility through deferring to the ambitions of others. As Christian we all have common ground in Christ. We all arrived at that common ground through the same Spirit. We all have ambitions and interests. This diversity of ambitions and interests can result in unity destroying conflict. As we pursue our personal ambitions and interests, let us commit ourselves to helping others fulfill theirs.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Please pray that we as a community of faith will learn His ways and walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Throughout the week we encourage you to use the hymn, "We are God's People" found on the back page as your song your prayer, and your reminder this week about what the church is all about.

Sunday, 2/4 **Read :** One major obstacle to living in harmony with others is a feeling of superiority. Read **Romans 12:3** and **12:16**. These verses have a great deal to say about our attitude towards our self and others.

Pray That you would behave as a Christian. You would have a proper perspective of yourself, and a full appreciation for others.

Monday, 2/5 **Read:** "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God". As Christians this is our common purpose. Think about how this command in **I Corinthians 10:31** should affect every aspect of your life. Reflect particularly on how this relates to looking out for the interests of those around you.

Pray That all of your thoughts, words and deeds would bring glory to God.

Tuesday, 2/6 **Read:** As we have learned before there are right things to do, and right ways to do them. Read **Matthew 6:1-4**. What do these verses say about the manner in which we meet the needs of others?

Pray: That there would be no self-serving interest in your ministries to others.

Wednesday, 2/7 **Read:** What does **James 2:16** say about how we approach the needy? Is it good enough to simply acknowledge that others have needs? How about prayer? Is it good enough to simply pray about something?

Pray: You would not be satisfied with a passive ministry, that you would take an active, sincere approach to meeting the needs of others.

Thursday, 2/8 **Read:** Are there needs other than physical we are to provide? Take a look at **Galatians 5:22,23**. Can we meet the needs of others through our expressions of the fruit of the Spirit? For example, by displaying love can we help others learn to love?

Pray Your every action would be a witness to others. That you would be able to actively help others meet their spiritual needs.

Friday, 2/9 **Read: Ephesians 2:10** and **II Timothy 3:17** state that God has good works for us to do, and He prepares us for those works. How are these good works related to our ability to meet the needs of others?

Pray: That the talents God has given you would be used to meet the needs of others. Also pray that the way in which you apply these gifts would bring unity to the church.

Saturday, 2/10 **Read:** Most people function quite well when circumstances are good. It is when our situation becomes difficult that we begin to see how well we understand what it means to follow Christ. Read **Hebrews 12:2, 3** What do these verses tell us about where our focus should be? How does a proper focus help us carry out our Christian work?

Pray: That regardless of your personal situation your eyes would be fixed upon Jesus and His example.