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# Unity in the Body

An Epistle for Today

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## Dear brothers and sisters

Today, in this moment, and in every moment yet to come, we are closer than ever before to the Lord's return.

In retrospect, we, the Body global, have all forgotten quickly this fact, but to be fully restored, we must remember that we are to "work out our salvation with fear and trembling," for "Behold, I am coming quickly." What we know for each of us, which means all of us, is that we have taken our eyes off the Lord, at some point, if even for a moment. And in those moments, we might just pause and ponder the things He's done for us, the times clearly God has shown up in our lives.

It is with great birth pangs that we stand here, together, a global church family, surrendering our lives to serve one another in humility, grace, and love, just as the Lord asked, right, church? Can I get an Amen?

Well, not exactly.

Today, often the first thought that comes to mind for a nonbeliever when you mention the name of Jesus is how someone they know who is a Christian is a hypocrite, or they know someone who has fallen away and is happier. While these measures of judgement are not the

Lord's, they are not able to see what we see.

But, there's no excuse for us: we can see.

And while we don't just see with our natural eyes, but with our spiritual eyes, it's what we do with what we see that matters. And for every brother or sister in Christ who is on the mission field, traveling, sharing the Word, patching up and mending the brokenhearted, telling people of God's love for them, and setting captives free, there's others who have or are falling away, just as the Lord said.

Both are true today more than ever before.

The church today is having a transformation, where thousands of new believers are coming to the Lord every single day, and like being shot out of a cannon, they are moving past those who have been in the faith for decades. This is not meant to critique, but is intended to restore the flames of the fire that burn within our bosoms, for He has and will always and forever be worthy of our deepest and most profound obedience.

As I see it, says the Spirit, we have two choices: move on or keep going on this

adventure the Lord has planted in our hearts, to keep true to His word, the eternal word. I see great waves of people, missionaries, lovers, those who having just escaped from the throes of death, who are moving with their zeal for their Savior who has truly saved them. That zeal can't be fabricated. That zeal cannot be torn.

Yet, despite this fact, Christ's bride, the church global, at the same time, is closer than ever before to ultimately preparing herself for His return.

Remember this again: all over the world, brothers and sisters, all over the world, people such as myself are getting radically saved. Men and woman of all ages are encountering the living God, through His Word, through missions, through dreams and visions, and through direct revelation. The Lord is moving powerfully, as the seed of His Word is falling on good soil in so many places. Thus, and hence, each and every single day our family is growing. Each and every single day, people are getting encountered by, and experiencing the indwelling, of who should be our best friend, the Holy Spirit.

And yet, still, despite all this, today if Christ were to return His bride would

not be ready to receive Him at the marriage altar. We would be unprepared.

Be assured, all over the world, as I stated, just as many as are radically coming to the faith are falling away, giving into the seeds of bitterness in their hearts, buying into the false comfort of this world, the lies of which are planted so gently, so deceptively in their hearts.

Yes, I dare to say, with fresh eyes as of a child, that I have seen many lukewarms, those who default to their salvation status as mere assumption, and others as well, who have forgot the fire of their first love. And, my friends, we know that we are to burn with fire for the Lord at all times, lest we grieve Him and His Spirit, and make a mockery of God's free gift to us all, for as Jesus said "I come to set fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled." So, ask yourselves, are you burning, or even kindled, that should the Lord return this moment He may be well pleased.

Regardless of these things, to some extent (as the enemy will even try to use exhortation against us), we must all bear the burden of lifting up our brothers and sisters who have fallen or are subject to falling away, which truth be told, we all are. For as many who have said in their



hearts that they know they will be saved, and are right, just as many have not pondered their eternal condition, nor the will of God for their life, for having fallen short, ensconced in the comfort and appeal of this world, they have forgotten that they are mighty, mighty men and women, having forgotten in whose image they were made.

And, if in a moment of conviction, we should stare at ourselves in the mirror and weep, let us not forget what we look like, for as the loss of conviction itself brings death, so too does renewed conviction break forth life like a new leaf in the spring, like a budding flower ready to bloom.

Yet, remember that “if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”

So, then, what must we do, my dear brothers and sisters?

If indeed we are to step into our collective destinies as Christ’s bride, we must, with full imperative, move with one accord.

For as the early church shared in all and gave freely to those brothers and sisters in need, we too must recognize our familial status with the Lord’s children all

over the world, and move in one accord. We must, according to His great graces and His great treasures, come with broken hearts to the throne and set before Him the things of this world which are passing away, ever so quickly. We must, with great imperative, move together, seeking out brothers and sisters who are struggling, who are in need, who have nothing of this world in fact, but yet have the same Spirit living within them who seeks to unify us through obedience of the faith.

There’s more: the global church is growing in sound reason. As it says, the gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing, but for those who are being saved it is the power of God to save.

For the same Spirit of unity that consumed the early church with the fire of God’s love must soon return. And, as we walk in our authority, demonstrating to the darkness of this world that the Light has indeed come and stayed in this world, that we too, assured of our purpose, desire greatly among all to love and be loved, perfectly tender, within the body of Christ. And as many have need to hear this, just as many say, but how do I love? With conviction, as though it were a commandment, for it is indeed the second greatest. And if anyone

should fail to love one another in brotherly love, we should ask God to teach us, and He will, for it is His will.

For as many as the Spirit is saving, He is taking His hand away from those who won't listen, who choose their own way. We must move in one accord, despite the falling away, despite the great apostasy, despite the way in which the world looks to those around us.

### **One Accord Mindset**

I feel it important to say with regards to the great urgency of our times that to be of one mindset is to be of one accord. And to be of one accord is to be of one mindset. I see a tree, casting shadows on a warm summer day, looking back to those cold, brutal winter months with humor in its heart, knowing that the sunshine is basking in its glory, that the warmth itself won't go away.

We truly turn our hearts to the Lord with one accord in this: we see a need and meet a need. A brother or sister who needs prayers, we pray. Simple.

We see a brother or sister without food. We feed. That simple.

Then we see, with regret looking back, at the times we've failed, where, with heavy

hearts, we've rationed ourselves into this place and we do this: we come before the throne of God and ask forgiveness. We proactively seek out a brother or sister and pray. It's that simple.

When we sense the pain or hurt or heartache or sadness or depression or anything of the sort that we see with our spiritual eyes, we must speak. We must act. We must lay our lives down, even if inconvenient, for those the Lord has entrusted to us, if even for a second, to love.

And we must preach the gospel of peace. Together.

There is no room for those who have gone to the battle lines to be left like Uriah. There is no need for those who have gone to the mountaintop to be left alone. We all bear the same burden, the same truth, we all carry the same Light of the world into this dark, cold place we currently call home. But our Father is greater than anything here, and is creating a place for us, in our own modest terms we must say sorry for the times we fall short, and move on. Then, with great zest, we must grow and learn and love and see and sing a new song from our hearts which sprouts joy, brings praise, and glorifies the name above all names.



I see a person in church singing with joy, and a brother or sister beside them hurting inside. We turn and say “I love you.” For without love, a multitude of sins is not covered, and the cloudy gong in our minds that says we’re making it gets delivered nevermore.

But in this time, we act. We move. We love. We restore. Together.

And for those on the battlefield, on the front lines, I say this to you “Stay hopeful for the day of the Lord is at hand.” We do not know the day or time, but we know that the life we’ve been given is a gift from above and the blood of martyrs must be quenched and that Lord is looking at every one of us with shining tears in His eyes: His faithful church.

Together we serve. Together we survive. Together we live. Together we die. Together we love. Together we aim. Together we seek the lost and broken-hearted still alive. Together we search. Together we see. Together we know the love He has for you and me.

One accord. Move in one accord church. Call on Him and ask Him for support. To Teach. To learn. To grow. To develop. To listen. To act. To cry. And to restore.

As it is with all things, closing is hard, not because of the Spirit’s need, but of ours. We strive for perfection, and know that we already have it inside. So, I say to you to move in one accord, praise God, love each other with the zeal the Lord has given to you, fan the flames, seek the lost, be the ambassadors we are called to be. For the hour is near, and the Lord sees all hearts, including His bride’s.

May the peace of God restore you into the glorious image He deserves, and with open arms and hearts may we together sing the praises of our God.

**Derrick**