In Christ

Sarah Hart

In Christ the Lord, no east or west,
in him is no division.
No land could part what Love has bound
for he is our communion.
No wound of earth could separate
the ones he came to reach and save.
In Christ, we have our unity,
bound by the cross forever.

In Christ the Lord, no slave or free,
in him, no less or greater.
We stand as equals in the heart
of healer, hope and savior.
So what is there of earth to gain
when God has given us a name
in Christ, and sealed us for his own,
bound by his resurrection.

In Christ the Lord, no old or young
but only sons and daughters,
in breath and blood and sacrifice
of Spirit, Son, and Father.
Oh mystery that binds us so
to heaven's realm and earth below,
who draws us to one heart alone
bound by his love forever.

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Preview

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Galatians 3:26–28 • So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Humankind has always struggled with division. It is but one of the byproducts of our sinful nature. God first created us in our humanity to need each other, to enter into relationship, to be in "community." We humans are a loved but often broken people; and so, division too often has its way.

One of the things I most dearly love about being Catholic is that, in the liturgy, I can be seated in the pew next to someone I don't know, who may have a different background, culture, belief system, political point of view; and yet I can extend my hand, offer a sign, say "peace be with you," and mean it. It is a phenomenon too often overlooked in the liturgy; an active miracle of unity.

In the book of Galatians, we see that Paul writes a letter of loving admonishment to the Church at Galatia; a Church, much like our modern Church today, that struggles with division, infighting, theological differences, and childish arguments. Paul speaks of the fact that there are no divisions in Christ, in essence reminding the people of God, "it cannot be that way with you." Paul teaches that to be divided, especially as a people who follow Christ, will lead hearts and souls into dangerous spiritual territory. The strength of God's kingdom on earth, in part, relies on our ability to get along.

This text is intended to be a hymn of unity. It is a text that reminds us that there is no real division for those who believe in the Lord; we are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, equally loved in the sight of God.

Use: Christ the King, Discipleship, Ecumenism, Global Family, Love for Others, Social Concern, Unity

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HE LEADETH ME

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Music: HE LEADETH ME; William B. Bradbury 1816–1868.

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