

One God, One Country, One Destiny
Sermon - May 28, 2017

No other event has so impacted the human race as Jesus Christ. The Creator God through the Holy Spirit is changing our world day by day. God has written His laws in the heart of each person. The Almighty God is teaching us about our rights and responsibilities, which are important to work for unity. Our Lord Jesus Christ taught us the greatest commandments: to love God and to love each other as we would love ourselves. This is the framework in which Canada was formulated 150 years ago.

“In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” (Maya Angelou).

It is amazing that here, at Calvin, we have members coming from more than 18 different countries and cultures. We all are made on God’s image but still so diverse. Many of us were raised in different countries, we spoke different languages, eat different kinds of food. Each of our cultures has a rich heritage from which we gain something beautiful and valuable. God designed all of us, one by one, but still we are different from each other, and we are all unique, masterpieces of Creator God. Without diversity life would be very boring like the nature if there would be only one colour in the whole world. A lots of different flowers make a colorful bouquet.

In Canada and here at Calvin, we respect our differences. We created a new platform for us and for our children, a new community, where the love of God is visible, and we love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ praying and working independently but together. God is leading us with His power and He is influencing us with His Holy Spirit. For this, we are able to deal with our differences with respect and equality and live together socially, economically.

We all are faithful Canadians and Faithful people of only living God, who created the universe and saved us In Jesus Christ. We are all citizens of Canada, in a free country, and at the same time we are citizens of ONE nation: the ONLY living and loving united nation of God. We are here today to declare that there is a very strong union between us and God. This multicultural, colourful congregation cannot be broken by any sin. We have many differences but more similarities as God’s citizens. Psalm 33:12 says: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” That means that we are blessed as a multicultural community if we honour the Lord. If we honour the Lord, we have to honour each other as well.

Our guidelines on how to LIVE and LOVE are summarized in the Ten Commandments and in those principles we find in the Bible. If today and tomorrow and in 100 years we will respect the Ten Commandments, this faithfulness to God will provide us life, freedom and happiness.

We are different but we are ONE. We are fed by the same Lord, who died for us on the cross and gave himself for us. We are walking together on the same road towards heaven where we will worship our God at His throne. So we have the same destiny. This congregation is already part of heaven, where all nations are united in love, serving each other and worshipping our Lord.

I have to share something very serious with you. As you know my mother language is Hungarian and I immigrated to Canada 17 years ago. The secret I am sharing with you is that, in HEAVEN we all will speak Hungarian. Because – as somebody said – it takes an eternity to learn Hungarian, this complex and rich language. So you better start and learn Hungarian today. Good luck with that.

Love is more than language and culture. I could preach you the gospel here in Hungarian, Romanian or German, and Armando could preach to you in Spanish, but only some of you would understand us. But when we touch and hug each other with the love of Christ, when we smile at each other, we can see in people's eyes that they love us with a sincere love that speaks more than a thousand words. We are ONE body, working together to share the love of Christ. God wants us to be ONE body: one, respecting the differences.

Paul in Ephesians 4:2-6 says: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is ONE body and ONE Spirit, just as you were called to ONE hope when you were called. ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism; ONE God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

If you and I do belong to God, we have to be one body. If we not only accept but also love each other in Christ, we belong to God's family and this church is OUR second home. We don't own the church building. It belongs to God. This pulpit belongs to God. These pews belong to God. The church's money also belongs to God. So this building is to be used for God. As long as God sees us worshipping together in unity, we can be called God's church.

As I prepared my sermon, I was searching for the word “unity” and I found something very interesting. The word UNITY shows up as part of 3 other common words:

- Comm-unity,
- Imm-unity and
- Opport-unity.

Then I did more research and I found out that these words were also common in Spanish. The Spanish word for unity is “unidad” and it shows up in:

- Com-unidad,

- Imm-unidad, and
- Oport-unidad. I thought that's cool.

When we gather in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we create a community and we have communion with each other. We come together as ONE body at this table.

When we are one body in Christ, we have a stronger IMM-UNITY. We are immunized from sins such as selfishness, hatred, prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

The Bible repeatedly tells us that we not only have “one faith, one Lord and one baptism” but we also have ONE Law that Jesus expects us to obey. We live under that ONE major commandment Jesus gave us when he said: “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35) We have to love one another, because we love Jesus. We also have a great oport-unity to show this love towards each other.

Let us show to Kitchener and to the world that in this church people love each other as Christ loves the world. These days we have a great opportunity to tell the people about the love we have for each other and the love we all have from Christ.

At this church, we do all kinds of things together because we are ONE BODY. In the last few weeks during our gatherings at Calvin, some fellows from The Beautiful Church joined the events. Yesterday more than a dozen people were present for clean-up day, as many as from Calvin.

We are ONE church and we belong to that one church only if we belong to Jesus. I am asking you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who wants us to live in lovely and enjoyable unity, to live in a way that people will see that you always honour and please the Lord, and you are producing every kind of good fruit.

Please work for unity as a members of Calvin and Christian fellows, turning your thoughts and minds to Jesus Christ rather than to individual preferences and feelings.

In John 17:23, Jesus prayed that: “I in them and you in me, so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Tertullian, a Christian author from the 3rd century says: “We are a body knit together as such by a common religious profession, by unity of discipline, and by the bond of a common hope. We meet together as an assembly and congregation, offering up prayer to God as with united force.”

Paul says: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:12).

As a progressive congregation we choose forward. We choose inclusion in harmony with one another, in real and unconditional love, because we are all equal and ONE in Christ Jesus. We choose growing together. We choose as Canadian to stand strong and free, to create a strong, empowered and ever-growing community of God.

Please always remember that your Saviour gave His own life for you, and He is expecting you to open yourself up to others and be unified as a member of this Church. Your responsibility is to welcome anyone and everyone here and show them real and unconditional love, the love of Christ. Help them to see Christ in you, and in that way they will believe in Jesus Christ whom we not only preach but we show Him.

With Jesus as our example, we should never be shy about welcoming others. Whether it's welcoming friends into our home, visitors into our church, or just saying hello to a stranger on the street, as Christians we should display the welcoming attitude of God. Welcoming those who have nothing in common with us should be one of the distinguishing marks of Christians. Being welcoming is more than just saying hello, but it is finding ways to help and serve people with love. Showing your faith with serving it is the easiest way to show that you have a welcoming attitude. "Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

We have to work as a team. We need each other and together we will function in our purpose more effectively. Now go make someone feel welcome today! Amen