

May 29,2022

Koinonia Meditation – Rev. Robert Wollenburg

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Before his death, resurrection and ascension Jesus prayed for his disciples (John 17). This was shortly before he sent them alone into the world. Jesus prayed that they would be one, united in God's love. He gives them the glory that he shares with God, a glory that results when God's love makes people one.

Notices that Jesus does not pray for the disciples to be alike. They certainly were not! They had their differences. Matthew worked for the government, for example, in a job not well respected. Peter was a fisherman and boisterous. Simon (not Peter) is called a Zealot and may have been a member of that nationalistic political party. Jesus called James and John "sons of thunder" and a story in the Bible suggests that they may have been "hot heads", brothers with quick tempers. And then there is Judas who had problems with money and honesty. These various personalities were a diverse group.

They were a diverse group with differing opinions. They disagreed over who among them should be first in the kingdom of God. (We know about unhealthy competition.) Some thought to be a disciple you had to observe the whole law of Moses, while others believed the opposite. (We know how to argue over church rules and beliefs.) Thomas had his doubts while others had a firm faith. (Where are you on a scale of 1-10?)

Jesus loved them all and prayed that they be one in God's love and love for one another. We believe that Jesus' prayer was answered! Because of the disciples the name of Jesus gained glory in the world and in that the disciples also received glory.

They were heroes of faith!

Over the Memorial Day weekend we gave glory and honor to our veterans and military personnel. They are one in loving our country and giving glory to our nation. It is right that we regard them as heroes. We give thanks to God for their love of country, for helping us to remain as the UNITED States and for preserving the glories that we enjoy.

Will you be a hero for the love and unity Christ prays for us? At first the disciples thought they were without Jesus. But then Pentecost occurred, and they learned they were not alone!

Glory will be yours and ours when love embraces people of different cultures, races, and opinions. They were all there at Pentecost and they are all still with us! And we are not alone in welcoming them into God's love.

May God in Christ, with the Holy Spirit, lead us to be welcoming Koinonias (communities)!