

The worship of God and the unity of Christians

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It is very important to seize and hold on to the unity that Jesus revealed in John 4:23 and John 17:20.

John 4:23 –“ ...but the time is coming, nay, has already come, when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; such men as these the Father claims for his worshippers. God is a spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth.”

John 17:20 – “It is not only for them that I pray; I pray for those who are to find faith in me through their word; that they may all be one; that they too may be one in us, as thou, Father art in me and I in thee; so that the world may come to believe that it is thou who has sent me.”

In John 4:23, Jesus speaks of the heavenly worship of the Father as the new form of worship of God in which the Father Himself elevates the believers in or through Jesus.

John 17:20 speaks of the heavenly unity of those believing in Him, who are joined together by the living unity of the Father and the Son.

We are in a heavenly dimension, of all that is spiritual, being the adoration of God, the Father, and the united believers in Jesus. Thus we are no longer on earth, but in heaven, even if the worshippers of God and the united believers together begin to live these two realities being on earth, as the first fruits and preparation as it will be in the perfect adoration and perfect unity in heaven. Therefore we are in the Divine World, that Jesus called the “Kingdom of God,” which is not of this world, because this world is that we enter is the actual world of God.

Entering this world of God that is Divine in virtue, born of a new birth from the Spirit from above, here is the development of being born again a new capacity to worship God and of unity in and through each other; among them worshipping the Father in spirit and truth through the unity of the Father and the Son.

What is the root and source of all this that perpetually continues to live? It is the Divine Life, poured out in the hearts of believers as a new life altogether supernatural, which God gives to those who accept His Son in faith. The crown is then this divine life poured out in our hearts, the life lived permanently, spontaneously, always aiming to reach new heights of goodness to the glory of God. This Divine Life is embedded in our human life, and gradually, with time, and man’s own response, works in believers as a progressive transformation and transfiguration through the love of Christ through the adoration of God being in the unity of Christians. This adoration and unity, thus, does not come from the physical exterior world of the believers as the result of a disciplined and orderly worship or relating to any Christian church in a physical form. While we are still on earth we will still need to sustain those exterior elements striving toward unity of outward worship, and of the unity of Christians. No. Jesus when he speaks of worship and unity in the above two texts cited, John speaks of the perfect unit, that arise perfectly united, growing solely (without human intervention) in the hearts of all the believers in the Divine Life which God infuses them directly, through the invasion of His Spirit, so that He may be all in all.

While we are still on earth we must also work for unity and outward worship and the church of the Christians, because the nature of our earth needs these external elements in which to express helping us to realize themselves as a sign of interior adoration and unity. Jesus, however, says that

the world will come to believe in Him, or make the judgment that he is truly the Messiah of God, when Christians realize their common life in unity with one another through the Father and the Son. One other point is that Jesus also says, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love to one another" (John 13:35).

It is not sufficient to just say, "We are Catholic or Evangelical or Orthodox," in order to say in such a way that we are disciples of Jesus. If we say this and then do not love each other in the love of Christ, the world will not realize that we are truly disciples of Christ, but rather say, "What false disciples of Christ are these Catholics, Evangelicals, these Orthodox, can't they see how they hate one another and are against each other?" Or rather, "We are in front of a church that no longer listens to their Master?" Similarly, Jesus says: "May they be one in us, so that the world may believe that you hast sent me." (John 17:20) The unity in the charity of Christ among believers in Jesus, clearly manifest that the Father and the Son is in them and they are truly the realization of God's work in the world.

Courage, then we are living the Divine Life intensely in which God every day feeds us and increases with the breath of the Holy Spirit in our hearts that will lead us to arrive to the perfect stature of our maturity in Christ, becoming perfect worshipers of the Father in spirit and truth and in perfect unity among us in the Father and the Son! Thus we will have perfectly realized in us the will of the Father.