

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

January 16, 2012

Issue No. 26 Mark Aites, Editor

Unity

"All for one, and one for all." – Alexandre Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*

What a power thought this is in regard to unity. For the child of God it is all for One. This is the very thing our Lord prayed for in the Garden of Gethsemane. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:20-21).

This is the very thing also that the beloved apostle stressed to the struggling church at Corinth. "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor 1:10).

Consider the rest of the pledge, as the musketeers would say but in a Christian context, "And one for all." Can we so function as one? Is not the church referred to as the body of Christ? Is the church not referred to as the bride of Christ? Both terms are singular and we would then reject many bodies or brides. My, how much better would the church be if it would learn to function as one.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psa. 133:1). "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph 4:1-3). Our Lord strongly desired that His people find that unity just as he enjoyed that special unity with His Father.

The church has struggled to find that unity for a number of reasons. Yes, there are those who refuse to adhere to our Lord's doctrine. And there have been those like Diotrophes (3 John 9), who through pride and arrogance have not found it within themselves to accept others. And too, there have been those who because of selfishness, refused to seek common ground with other brethren. If only brothers and sisters in Christ would realize that there is no ground for variance when it comes to doctrine, and that in areas of opinion, one's ideas are as good as another's. Such will lead to that precious unity that our Master desires of us.