

We Are Accepted In His Heart Always

Hello cherished members of Christ!

We love you and pray for you and want you to know that we stand with you together as one in Christ. We want to mention just a few prayer requests. We have a dear sister named Rachel in Ireland who is coming to the end of her pregnancy. Please cover her and her family in prayers during these upcoming weeks. There are other women who are suffering with physical pain and illness. Please intercede for them in these areas, and also that they may know the sweet communion of Christ in their pain and be comforted and brought even deeper into His life. May they feel the strength and covering of our prayers and love for them.

We will now share some from last night's women's meeting:
Sometimes we may feel like we have to earn Jesus' love or that it is possible to fail Him enough to ruin everything with Him. We may believe that our peace and stability comes from what we do or don't do. But our stability comes from something that was and is settled in God's heart. The Lord desired us to be with Him in a oneness that He chose to die to bring forth. He determined this in Himself from before we were born. Higher than every issue and concern, a great desire swelled within the heart of God to bring forth a Body that would be in union with Him. This reality can help us to realize that the greatest thing always in our Lord's heart is the oneness that He has with His Church. We can become afraid when He chastises us or corrects us, revealing areas of barrenness. We might fear that our failures and lack has spoiled the relationship and then we might then become desperate to do anything to make it better again. In this way we feel that we are holding everything together by how we are doing. But He is holding everything together in Himself! Listen to what the scriptures say, "*And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church...* (Colossians 1:17-18)." EVERYTHING is being held together and consisting by Him Who has died to make us one. HE is holding us in Himself, and our consistency and existence is in the Son who is always

accepted. He is the head of the Body... He sees us as one with Himself. He holds us in Himself and knows us as His own Body at ALL TIMES!

It is just a fact of life that there are seasons of correction and pruning that must happen for growth to take place. But if we believe that the issues and correction He is bringing up are the greatest matters in His heart then we might respond out of fear and panic trying to earn favor again. We may feel like WE have to hold everything together,... but HE is holding everything together in Himself because that is the desire of His heart and that is the reality of His resurrection! Oneness is the greatest issue in His heart, and it is because of His acceptance that He disciplines us. The bible does not say God rejects every son He scourges, but rather that He receives every son that He scourges (Hebrews 12:6). He is not condemning us but lovingly bringing us on into a deeper conformity to His image. Once again, He is always holding us in oneness, entreating the Father on our behalf as He makes intercession for us at the right hand of God (Romans 8:33-34).

May we become so established in the Lord's heart that we can remain at peace in oneness even during tribulation and peril, testing and discipline. Our focus is free to be permanently fixed upon Him rather than always being preoccupied with our condition. As we abide in Him, He abides in us. Our responsibility is to abide in oneness. Our joy to unashamedly receive that at all times we are accepted in Him by incredible grace! His responsibility is to abide in us by Life. Therefore we can become a bride that is caught up in nourishing and blessing others with His Life rather than always trying to maintain His favor and acceptance by the works of our flesh. (John 15:4, I Jn. 4:18-19)

Together in His acceptance