

Peter Kolliman - Unity

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The evidences of our love and concern for you is the fact that we came here. It's not an easy job and an easy trip for an old man. We left home with. Left home about 6:15 yesterday morning. I got into Detroit Station at 9:20.

I expect to leave tomorrow at 8:00 clock and I won't be in Wilmington till about 12:10 that night. So when you are 75, 76 years old, those trips mean something to you, and it's my love for you that prompted me to accept your invitation and come.

The your history, the history of this class is still fresh in our minds. Your activities when you started and the accumulation assembly of the people that are here now and were here then, many of whom I don't see here today, were the things that marked this class out as one after our own heart, and we fell in love with it and would like to see it continue the way it was.

Whether you realize it, whether you know it or not. We have disquieting news about you. Not only from hearsay, but even from your literature. It's easy to say that we believe the same thing, that we accept the studies in the Scriptures and accept Pastor Russell. But I can do the same thing.

We can be choosy as to what we teach.

The main objection, the main stumbling block would be the reign of Christ.

Nobody that I know of ever thought that the blessings of Christ's kingdom are flowing to mankind. But that the kingdom is established, that the kingdom is started and it will grow and bring about the blessings that some of the friends expect.

There's no question about it. The same teacher that taught the kingdom is still to come. The same teacher said the kingdom started in 1874.

In Luke 12 we read the Lord, a certain nobleman went to a far country to receive a kingdom and to return.

Did he return? I think we are all agreed with that. Did he come back empty handed? I can't agree to that. We all agree that he was king when he returned and he is king.

In Revelation we read that the seventh trumpet sounded and the voices and and the nations were angry and his wrath is come.

Are the nations angry? Has God's wrath begun then? He has assumed his authority and has reigned, and as a result of that the nations were angry. In the 20th chapter, 19th chapter, Revelation, we read of him, as some of the friends call him now, not the king, but the great General Jehovah.

He is the great general Jehovah. But on his side is a name written. What is it? King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Dear friends, when we hear and when we see deviations from that, we feel concerned.

The smiting of the image, of course we spoke about this morning, is another. Brother Russell said that the Gentile times would end in 1914. The whole image had to do with the Gentile times. The

Peter Kolliman - Unity

Gentile times were authority of Gentiles to rule as kings. Kings, the rulership, kingly authority as an idea that their reigning by divine authority died in the first World War.

That was the end of the Gentile times. That was the time when this image was smitten. But then another disquieting thing is that we shouldn't all believe alike. This is where unity comes in. What do the Scriptures teach?

Sometimes we are choosing not only in what we read in Brother Russell, but we are choosing what we read in the Bible.

Are we? Dare we say this passage doesn't mean me, it means somebody else. You can say that, but don't forget you're endangering your own position in the body. In the 133rd Psalm we read how good and blessed it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. I think we better read the succeeding verse, Psalm 133.

It'll take me a little while to find these because I haven't written them all completely out.

It is like the precious ointment upon the head that went down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard that went down to the skirts of his garment, as the dew of Hermon, as the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion. For there the Lord commanded a blessing, even life forevermore. Dear friends, in the 18th chapter of Matthew, where the Lord is directing us as to how we should conduct one towards each other. Towards the other. He said that it's only when you agree that you would be there to bless.

In other words, if there is no agreement, you will not receive the Lord's blessing. It's only as we agree to do a job or to undertake a thing. Not me, but the group, the body, the ecclesia. When they agree to undertake something, the Lord will bless it.

But the implication is true in the opposite way. If there is no agreement, there is no Blessing.

In Proverbs 6:19, six things that the Lord hates, yea, seven. A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed blood, innocent blood, a heart devising evil, and those that sow discord among brethren.

You know, to sow discord. I did some of that this morning. I set you to arguing with me and with each other.

But the intention was good. The intention was to establish to bring back Unity. Unity of faith. Unity of belief, unity of action. In John 17, the Lord prays.

I pray. I pray for them. I pray not for the world that they may be one as we are. I pray not for them alone, but I pray for those who will believe in me through their word, that they all be one, that the world may believe that AH has sent me. The implication is clear.

If you don't agree, you can't convince anybody that the Lord was sent by his father.

Isaiah. I think this is it. In some other place. Going back a little bit.

I won't read all this, so don't get scared. I won't talk any more than an hour. Ephesians 4, 11, 14. He gave some apostles, there are some prophets, some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Peter Kolliman - Unity

Till we do what? Who can help? Till we all come to the unity of the faith. Till we all come to the unity of the faith. Not digression, dear friend, but the unity of the faith.

And to what extent are we exerting ourselves to come to a unity of the faith? How many ideas of our own can we repudiate because they distort the unity of the group? When we come to the edifying of the body of Christ, Till we all come to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fulness of Christ, that we henceforth be no more. Children tossed about by every wind of doctrine, by the slaying of hand and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in vain to deceive. Maybe they don't know it, but they do it.

These things are unbelievable. Dear friends, we are Christian people. We could be caught dead doing this, and we think that no other Christian will do it. But Christian people did it and not doing it.

The sleigh of hand lying in wait to deceive, and this fellow brother Muir said one time, like in talking about some similar thing, he says he likened us to a bird that sees a beautiful butterfly. That is the new idea we see. Oh, it's so beautiful, and we gobble it down and we get a belly ache and we wonder what ailed us.

Dear friends, ideas may be beautiful, but they're not always correct. They're not always right. Be careful what ideas you gobble up. A secular author wrote, we should have open minds until we are convinced. Paul tells the same thing.

Try all things, but do what? Hold fast that which is good. He went on to say that after you are convinced of the truth of a subject, then you should be convinced if your mind is still open after that it's no longer an open mind, but the cave of the winds.

That's what the apostles are saying.

Isaiah 52:7 8 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth peace, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion thy God reigneth.

Can we say to Zion that their God is reigning? I can.

And then but Continues the eighth Thy watchman shall lift up the voice with the voice together they will sing. For what reason? For they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings again Zion. That's what I said this morning there was a time turn from Miami to Vancouver, from Newfoundland to San Diego. The friends believe identically who distorted it.

The watchtower yes, they left it. The dawn yes, and they left it.

But we would be partial and as the apostle Paul explains, we would be very carnal. If you condemn one for changing and approve of another we are person worshipers. Then it's not whether the thing is true or false, it's who is telling it, and that, Paul says, is the crux, the sinner of carnality. Carnality is not smoking, playing cards and going to movies.

Carnality is partiality to approve what Brother Peter said because Peter said it, and to condemn what Norman said because it was Norman that said it.

We are partial in our own hearts.

Peter Kolliman - Unity

Philippians 3:15, 16 Let us therefore as many as be perfect, be thus minded and if in anything you be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you nevertheless, whereby you have attained, let us walk by the same thing.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you speak who can finish it the same thing that there be no divisions among you, and that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind in the same judgment. First Corinthians 14:8 if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, or who will prepare himself for the battle in Amos 2:3 can two walk together? Unless they agree eventually they'll end up in an argument and divide. 2nd Corinthians 13:11 Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of all peace shall be with you.

Philippians 2:1 6 Father Knox's translation if anything is meant by encouragement in Christ, by loving sympathy, by common fellowship in the Spirit, by feelings of tenderness and pity, fill up my cup of happiness by thinking with the same mind, cherishing the same bond of charity, soul knit to soul in a common unity of thought. You must never act in a spirit of factitiousness or of ambition. Each of you must have the humility to think others better than themselves. Study the welfare of others, not your own. Yours is to be the same mind which Christ Jesus showed.

2nd Corinthians 11, 17, 20 My dear brethren, I am reminded of a passage in Second Corinthians chapter 11, verses 17 to 20. As Wemuth renders it, Paul had good reason to speak or write as he did. The Corinthians were found changing everything he had ever taught them. He said he was writing as a fool but there my foolishness, he said, wise as you yourselves are, you find pleasure in tolerating fools for you tolerate them if they enslave you, live at your expense, makes away with your property, gives himself heirs, and strikes you in the face, and you put up with it.

We also fail in the same trap in glorifying, in glorying, in our tolerance of differences, with digressions, with changes that if they do nothing else, make our message ineffective. As the Lord put it in the passage we already quoted from John 17 unless we are one united in faith and action, the world will not cannot believe that he, the one we are preaching as the Messiah, the Savior, the ransomer, who will also be the mediator and restorer. They will not believe that he was sent by God. 2nd Timothy 2:18. The apostle Paul on at least four occasions declared that the gospel he preached, and which had influenced his correspondence, was unchangeable.

He went further than that, declaring in 2nd Thessalonians 2, 1, 3, that they should not be easily shaken in mind, or troubled by a spirit, or a sermon, or or even an epistle signed by the Apostle Paul. Dear friends, are we so sure of what we believe that we can say, if I speak differently to you, don't accept me? That's what the Apostle Paul said. He said it twice to the Galatians, and he said it again in other places. Maybe we'll come to Galatians a little later in Galatians.

Here it is in my notes, verse 6 and verse 9. He said in the first chapter. He was astonished that the Galatians had so quickly turned away to other gospels. But there were no others. There were only persons who were troubling them and wished to subvert the good news.

And then he adds that even if he himself or an angel from heaven should announce a gospel other than the one they had accepted, let him be accursed, and then he repeats it again in the ninth verse.

In the 15th chapter of First Corinthians, verse 12, in the resurrection chapter, he charged the Corinthians for accepting contrary ideas. This time it had to do with the resurrection of the dead.

Peter Kolliman - Unity

Someone had thought, and they had believed that there was no resurrection of the dead. In the second epistle, chapter 11, verses 13 to 15, he calls them false apostles, deceitful workers. We don't have the authority or the power or the position to call anybody by that title.

But Paul did and recorded it.

In second Timothy, second chapter, verses 15 to 19, he urges his son Timothy to be diligent, an approved workman, irreproachable, rightly dividing the word of truth. Theologians seem to resist empty and profane declarations that the words of those who are trying to subvert their minds will eat like a cancer. They missed the mark in respect to the truth teaching that the resurrection was past already. Dearly beloved, the Lord knows those that are his, and to conclude, Paul advised the Romans and all Christians everywhere to watch those that are making factions and laying snares contrary to teachings that you have learned.

The Lord himself described them as wolves in sheep's clothing. You will know them by their fruits.

I quoted earlier the second Timothy, the second chapter, the second verse. The things that thou hast heard of me, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall teach others also. The third chapter, the 14th. Continue thou in the things that thou hast learned, and been assured of knowing of whom thou has learned them.

Now, to doubt or to question, I feel that there are 12 apostles who are fixed and unchangeable. Additionally, there were seven messengers to the churches, seven individuals that God raised up in the dire need necessity of the church.

Some of the friends don't agree on the names, but in my own heart it's the Apostle John, Paul, G. John, Arius, Waldo, Wycliffe, Luther, and Russell. These are the seven men and only seven men that were raised by God in time of need of the Church.

And I can't question their saints and their authority. Besides, I don't expect an eighth. Not even a seven and a half. Not even a seven and a quarter. There are no successors to brother Russell.

In other words, there is no other authority. What we know about the scriptures he taught us. I would not think about him unless I read Where Are the Dead? Or the fifth volume. I'd never know anything about the kingdom of God unless I read thy kingdom come.

The kingdom of God, the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of God in the first volume. I would never know anything about the Trinity unless I read in the fifth volume his dissertation on the nature of God, the relationship of the Son to the Father, and the place of the Holy Spirit in God's arrangements. Dear friends, these are the cardinal points that you taught, and we all accept that. But there are other points that she also taught that we repudiate to our own risk.

In first Peter, chapter five, verses eight and nine, be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion about seeking whom he may devour, whom resist. How? By being steadfast in the faith. Not Changeable, but steadfast. First Corinthians 15:58 Be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

I don't know that there is any reason to continue to quote Scriptures.

If those scriptures are not applying to you, there is no use quoting them. But I do pray and hope that those scriptures are addressed to you and that you'll accept them as being addressed to you.

Peter Kolliman - Unity

Not only these, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Men will not live by bread alone. It's necessary for men to have bread.

Bread is the prime necessity. Unless a man eats bread, he can't live, and if he is dead, he can't learn anything else. A man that's hungry can't think of anything else except his empty stomach and the need for bread, and, dear friends, the Lord is providing man just that to begin the beginning of his kingdom.

The trouble with us is that we are young in our mind. Don't go back far enough.

Ask your fathers, and even that's not enough. I don't think Brother Bordes would remember very far back. I don't think he's 60 years old yet, is he? No.

I don't know either myself. I can't go back far enough.

So better ask your grandfathers. Better still ask your great grandfathers if they're still living. They'll tell you what the situation was in 19, in 1870, 78. They'll tell you how a man lived here or an old all over the world. The changes that have taken place, dear friends, are tremendous.

What God is doing is providing, preparing, preparing gradually for the sustenance of the billions that will be soon coming back. But they are just as part of the kingdom as the resurrection of the dead.

Brother Richard told we were discussing something similar one time. Brother Richard, who was a farmer, told me when I was a young man. He died 95 years old. When I was a young man, he said, we used to get 30 bushels of corn to the acre. He says, I live to see 300 bushels to the acre.

About three months ago, I was talking to another brother, a farmer down in Seaford, Delaware, and was telling this story. He says, we are getting 600 bushels to the acre experimentally. Is that an accident? No. Dear friends.

Brother Russell was charged with fraudulently selling Miracle Wheat. That was the beginnings. It was real. It was a new strain of wheat that was producing more wheat than anything else that they had previously. Those were the steps in India.

Starving India.

They are raising wheat nine times the amount that we raise in Kansas. Kansas is our breadbasket in acreage. I don't know the number. I don't know the number of bushels of wheat that they gain. How are they doing it?

Just an accident. No difference. The Lord put in the minds of one an idea and in another another idea, and the two ideas are merging and producing. You realize when I first got the truth, the average life expectancy, what was it?

35 years? What is it today? 70, and the United States, I think, is either third or fourth. There are other nations who have longer life expectancy than we have.

Dear friends, man is not living forever. They are not getting the right to live. That Brother Kenneth was talking about a little while ago. But life is expanding. It won't be 930.

Peter Kolliman - Unity

It will be more than that. But soon. Not yet, but soon. But part of the same arrangement, part of the same kingdom.

In 1870, 1878, 1880.

They had no eight hour day, no five day week. They had no time and a half for overtime. They had no unemployment compensation. They had no occupational.

Occupational diseases. Then the minors, black lung, they call it.

They had no Social Security. They had no Medicare. They had nothing. We lived long enough to have all the. No pensions, no vacations.

I remember when I left the dawn, by the way, telling you what I did in my life. I worked five years for the Dawn. I made radio programs for 15 years for the dawn, with Frank and Ernest.

All my life has been devoted to some form of activity.

That's why I am happy. That's why I rejoice. That's why I'm blessed. I consider myself blessed of the Lord. That's why I want you to share in that blessing.

I hope you change your mind, some of you, and go back to your first love. But going back to your first love won't do me a bit of good or favor materially. It'll be just another happiness added in my experience, it may be the Lord will lead. We'll come back again and we won't have arguments next time. We will all speak the same thing.

One mind serving the Lord unitedly. I think that's enough for today.

The Lord bless you all.

Thank you, brother Kahlman. May Lord bless you your concern for our spiritual welfare.

They can and did receive much that was good from your service today.

Do you have a hymn that you'd like to use? Brother Coloman? Do you have a hymn you'd like to close with?

All right, we'll sing hymn 64.

Me God be with you till we meet again Live with my spirit you will.

Loving Father, go with us as we separate and depart for several homes be with us. Bless our homes with thy peace and bless us with thy truth. Guard us from our adversary keep us from falling and eventually Father, grant that we may hear your well done because we ask it in Jesus name.