

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME**

### **LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Romans 12:16 "Live in harmony with one another . . . "

To be on the same page with someone is a good thing. To be in harmony, concord, accord means you are thinking the same thing and feeling the same way. Your life is founded on the same principles and beliefs. As a Christian, it means you share a common faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

The Psalmist writes, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father that He would protect His followers and grant that "they may be one as we are one." (John 17:11) St. Paul urged the Philippian Christians to "do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that (they) may become blameless and pure, 'children of God.'" (Philippians 2:14-15) Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:8, "all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

Speaking together the three ecumenical creeds is a way of speaking the same words, thoughts, and doctrines (teachings.) You, along with your brothers and sisters in Christ, speaking these words give testimony to those who hear you that you are in agreement in believing God is Triune, creator of the world, Savior of humanity and sanctifies and keeps you and all believers in the true faith to life everlasting.

You are in harmony with your fellow Christians when you pray together the Lord's Prayer because you direct the prayer to "our" Father . . . You believe in and share the same Father to whom you with one heart pray to Him.

Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) Living in love and harmony with your fellow Christians is a bright shining Christian light in a world of disharmony, anger, fighting and hatred. Your love for God and for your neighbor is like yeast that causes the bread dough to be light and tasty.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love for my heavenly Father, my fellow believers and for all people that my life be a light unto the world reflecting the love of God in Christ Jesus. In His name. Amen.

The saints in Christ are one in ev'ry place  
To serve the Gospel of His costly grace;  
From those first days to this, our hope the same:  
The love of Christ, one Lord, one saving name.

In chains for Christ! His pris'ners love to sing,  
For slaves and free rejoice to praise our King;  
What though the Church on earth still suffers wrong?  
The cross of Christ remains our pilgrim song.

To live is Christ, for us, to die is gain;  
Where then shall be our hunger, danger, pain?  
Our joy to preach good news to rich and poor,  
Then be with Christ, to live forevermore.

Lord Jesus Christ! Heav'n's praise let earth repeat;  
The work that You began, You will complete.  
By grace let ev'ry foe become Your friend;  
Your day, O Christ, shall dawn and never end.  
(LSB 838)