

## The Ark Community

# 112: **For all have sinned and lack the glory of God**

by Tony **Palmer** (SELAH)

**"For all have sinned and lack the glory of God."**

We are naked and devoid of our birth suit, God's glory, God's presence. We have been stripped of our birthright - the glory of God. Thus upon the Tree of Calvary Christ openly declared our nakedness is no more, **"Father the glory You have given Me, I have given them"**. We are no longer naked, we are now clothed in His presence once more. In Christ we all find our covering, our home.

**God has as much grace for the perpetrator and his sin as He does for the victim and his kin.**

Grace knows no conditions, cannot be earned nor suffers no limits or boundaries. *"Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."* Yet Christ's gift of glory, His Father's presence in our lives, was given to us for a specific purpose not for a 'play-thing'. Christ Himself declared, **"Father the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE"**.

It is in the receiving of the Pentecostal Charismatic gift of the '*presence of God upon flesh*', that we are given the gift, the grace and the power for the unification of all diversity. All things become equal in His presence. All diversity finds common ground in Him. Through the divine flesh of the Son of God that was torn apart, the universal flesh of mankind is united into ONE NEW BODY. We are a new creation, a new people. We are ONE Church. The Charismatic tradition offers this reality to the universal society of mankind. The Charismatic gifts are not for '*Signs and Wonders*' alone, but fundamentally the gift of God's presence, through the Charismatic experience is **"SO THAT WE MAY BE ONE."** ... **"Father the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE"**

The Charismatic movement not only introduced the Church to the Ecumenical (*Christian unity*), movement, it also makes the Ecumenical movement possible, and it's goals attainable. Through our common '*real-time*' experience of the presence of God in our lives, all Christians, from all denominations, now find a '*common ground*' and '*meeting place*' for our diversity. In the context of a common living experience of Christ's living presence in our lives, diversity becomes a divine attribute and no longer a point of division. **Diversity is divine – it is division that is diabolic.** In the context of our shared experience of God's glory upon our human flesh, we are stripped of our '**disability of insecurity**', allowing us to go beyond the mere 'tolerance' of diversity to a place where we can 'celebrate' the beauty of diversity.

Diversity is a necessary ingredient for genuine unity because unity is the unification, celebration and integration of diversity. Unity is not conformity but the celebration of diversity. Unity is not being the same it's being together. And this profound unification of diversity can only be achieved through the all leveling, all unifying power of God's glory, which is His living, infilling presence in the lives of the everyday flesh of those He loved so much that He gave them His only Son. The Charismatic movement therefore offers mankind the '**Key to Unity**' – unity God's way, not through agreement of doctrine and dogmas nor the conformity and uniformity of expression, but in a common life in the Spirit, a new life in God, being joined together in God's glory, while our diversity no-longer divides us but rather seeks to define us. Our diversity is divine, we are all different for a reason, it's our division that is treason. Christ died for ONE Bride.

Therefore Brothers and Sisters, let us understand the words of our Lord in the context of our modern day Charismatic movement, **"Father the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, so that the World may believe You sent Me."**

Christ is our testimony, but our unity is our credibility. The world will not believe our testimony without trusting our credibility. Christian unity is fundamental to God's great commission of evangelization and God gave His Church the Charismatic tradition, *which has transcended all the Christian denominations*, in order that we may receive the glory of God to unite us, so that His world will believe His message through us.

With the signing of the '**Joint Declaration of Justification by Faith**' in 1999, by the Worldwide **Lutheran** and **Roman Catholic** Churches, then later agreed upon, accepted and signed by the Worldwide **Methodist** Church in 2006, this effectively brought an end to Luther's protest and birthed us into a post-Protestant age. Let us therefore now live the reality of our generation as post-Protestant Christians. May we now dare to live once again as Catholics in the true definition of the word - members of the one **universal** Holy Apostolic Church.

So then, let us remember our purpose and make way for the Ecumenical movement that is already circumventing the world in every tradition and denomination like a tsunami. Let every leader within the Charismatic tradition understand the true purpose of the gifts he or she possess. We exist for this purpose... **"Father the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, so that the World may believe You sent Me."** And forgive us Lord for our division. *"Where sin abounds, Your grace abounds the more"*.