

“Blest Be The Tie”

Introduction.

1. A wonderful blessing we enjoy in Christ is fellowship with other Christians.

a. We are members of one another. (Rom. 12:5).

Rom 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

b. “In Christ” we have a special, wonderful bond or tie that binds us together.

c. This bond becomes very strong if we draw near one another and let them draw near to us!

2. A simple, yet beautiful, song that describes this special bond is "Blest Be The Tie."

First Verse

1. "Blest Be The Tie That Binds Our Hearts In Christian Love”

2. The tie that binds our hearts together is not power, money, education, perfection, fame, but love.

3. Let us consider some details about this special love that binds our hearts together.

a. It is love, not easily broken. (Col. 3:14).

Col 3:14 Beyond all these things {put on} love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

b. It is love, that comes from the God of love. (1 Jn. 4:7-11).

1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son {to be} the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:11 **Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

c. It is a love, learned from the example of Christ who loves us more than life. (1 Jn 3:16).

1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that **He laid down His life for us**; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1) Jesus did not give us a love that cost Him nothing.

2) He did not give us a love manifested by wealth, fame, power, etc.

3) He manifested His immense love by dying on a cross that we might have the abundant life now and in eternity. **The cross was a shameful and painful death reserved for criminals.**

d. It is love, serving as a mark of true discipleship. (Jn 13:34-35).

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- The tie that binds us is uniquely Christian; patterned after Christ's love.
- He loved us more than life. (Jn. 15:13).
- We are to have this same, special, unique love for one another.
- It is a love that cares about the needs of others whether it be fellowship, physical needs, spiritual encouragement, bearing burdens, etc.

4. "The Fellowship Of Kindred Minds Is Like To That Above"

a. This tie involves the unity for which Jesus earnestly prayed. (Jn. 17:20-23).

John 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;
John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, {are} in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 17:22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me

- 1) Jesus wants us to be "one" just as He and the Father are "one."
- 2) He wants us to "be perfected in unity."
- 3) Such unity among believers manifests that He had been sent from the Father.

b. It involves a unity of mind for which Paul prayed. (Phil. 2:2).

Phil 2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

- 1) We are to be "of the same mind" that is seeking not our own will, but the will of the Father in heaven.
- 2) We are to maintain "the same mind," that is to be "united in spirit."
- 3) We are to be "intent on one purpose" that is seeking the will of God - not our own will.

c. Therefore any threat to this unity is strongly condemned. (1 Cor. 1:10).

1 Cor 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

- 1) There were to be “no divisions among” them.
 - 2) They were to be united seeking the revealed will of God, His Divine, will and not their own selfish ambitions.
- d. The tie commanded by the Lord seeks to emulate the unity between the Father and the Son.
- e. The tie that binds is based upon the love and unity that Christ makes possible by revealing that He is the Head of the body [the church] and He has “**all authority.**” (Matt. 28:18).
- f. How it is manifested is illustrated in the remaining verses of this amazing hymn.

Second Verse

1. "Before Our Father's Throne We Pour Our Ardent Prayers"

- a. We are blessed above measure to be able to approach God, the Creator and Monarch of the universe, in prayer.

- 1) It is a privilege enjoyed in Christ. (Heb. 4:14-16).

Heb 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as {we are, yet} without sin.

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- 2). It is a privilege with great blessings. (Heb. 4:16; Phil. 4:6-7).

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, **so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- b. This song depicts frequent and fervent prayer as a part of true believers.

- a. Praying for one another. (Jas. 5:16; Acts 12:5).

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and **pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.**

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

- b. Praying with another (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 12:12; 21:5).

Acts 1:14 **These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer,** along with {the} women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 12:12 And when he realized {this,} he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, **where many were gathered together and were praying.**

Acts 21:5 When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until {we were} out of the city. **After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another.**

c. Such prayer is a benefit of the tie that binds, and also strengthens that tie.

2. "Our Fears, Our Hopes, Our Aims Are One, Our Comforts And Our Cares"

a. We have similar concerns and desires and fears.

b. Some because we are simply fellow humans in this world.

1) We desire to be healthy, we fear sickness and dying.

2) We enjoy comforts of life, we fear joblessness and poverty.

c. Others because we are fellow citizens of the kingdom

1) We share the hope of the resurrection and eternal life. (1 Pet. 1:3).

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2) We share in the struggles against temptation and persecution. (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober {spirit,} be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Pet 5:9 But resist him, firm in {your} faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

d. As Christians, therefore, we can have more in common:

1). Not just because of our human nature.

2). But also because we are partakers of divine nature.

• Grace and peace are multiplied. (2 Pet. 1:2-3).

2 Pet 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

2 Pet 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

• 2) We have exceedingly great and precious promises. (2 Pet. 1:4).

2 Pet 1:4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of {the} divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

- Our shared experiences, enhanced by our spiritual blessings, strengthen our tie

The next verse focuses on mutual problems we sometimes face in life.

Third Verse

1. "We Share Our Mutual Woes, Our Mutual Burdens Bear"

- a. As Christians, we are to bear one another's burdens. (Ga 6:1-2).

Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

- b. In times of spiritual weakness, we are to pray for one another. (Jas. 5:16).

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

- c. In times of persecution, we are to remember one another. (Heb. 13:3).

Heb 13:3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, {and} those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

- d. In times of physical need, we are to provide for one another, (Jas.1:27; 2:14-17).

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of {our} God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, {and} to keep oneself unstained by the world.

James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

James 2:16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

- e. **Manifested in such ways, the tie we have in Christ is truly a blessing**

2. "And Often For Each Other Flows The Sympathizing Tear".

- a. Because that is how God composed the body of Christ! (1 Cor. 12:24-26).

1 Cor 12:24 whereas our more presentable members have no need {of it.} But God has {so} composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that {member} which lacked,

1 Cor 12:25 so that there may be no division in the body, but {that} the members may have the same care for one another.

1 Cor 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if {one} member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

- b. That we might weep with those who weep. (Rom.12:15).

1) This is a natural reaction when we care for the hurting person.

2) This emotional response is a demonstration of the bond we share.

Note: The final verse describes the impact of the tie that binds, when it comes time to separate, even temporarily.

Fourth Verse

1. "When We Asunder Part, It Gives Us Inward Pain"

a. The tie is such that departure can be painful because of death, moving away, etc.

b. Note the example of Paul and the Ephesian elders. (Acts 20:36-38).

Acts 20:36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Acts 20:37 And they {began} to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,

Acts 20:38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

c. Never experience such pain? Perhaps one might need to examine their tie.

2. "But We Shall Be Joined In Heart, And Hope To Meet Again."

a. We might be separated in the flesh, but can remain together in spirit. (Col. 2:5)

Col 2:5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

- "spirit" seems to mean they were constantly in his thoughts and prayers.
- He was concerned about them and helping them, if possible, even in his absence.

b. We are comforted by a wonderful hope:

1) The hope of the resurrection. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1 Thess 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Thess 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thess 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2) Made possible by the resurrection of Christ, and our faith in Him. (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

1 Pet 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused

us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
1 Pet 1:4 to {obtain} an inheritance {which is} imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
1 Pet 1:5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

c. It is this hope which keeps our hearts joined together, when all other bonds fail

Conclusion.

1. "Blest Be The Tie" is a beautiful and meaningful spiritual song.

- a. That describes the blessings of our oneness in Christ.
- b. That expresses how many Christians truly feel for one another.

2. But it describes blessings known only by those:

- a. Who have been added by Christ to His church. (Acts 2:41,47).
- b. Who are diligent in preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:1-3).

Eph 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

Eph 4:2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,

Eph 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Conclusion.

1. Hopefully all of us are bound together by Christian love.

2. Hopefully all of us are doing our part to strengthen the tie that binds us together with those in Christ!

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