

Being the Body of Christ in 2020: Solidarity Requires Fortitude

Ministry of Mercy Zoom Retreat

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Grounding Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became an adult, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



We all wear glasses.
None of us see the world as it really is.
Really.

The spiritual life is about admitting we wear glasses. Cleaning our glasses. Checking the prescription in our glasses. Making sure we are changing the lenses, not the frames. Checking our sight up close and far away. Polishing/healing the deep scratches in our lenses (we all have them).

A little Fortitude review:

Fortitude is the virtue that gives us the courage to pursue the good

Even in the most difficult circumstances

That allows us to conquer fear, even the fear of death,

And to face trials and persecutions without bitterness.

Three Ways We Might be the Body of Christ in fullness:

- ▶ Shut up and listen.
- ▶ Start to internalize the phrase, “Not on my watch.”
- ▶ Pray like you’ve never prayed before.

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