

Response of the Session of First Hungarian Church, Vancouver BC to the Special Committee of Past Moderators on The Question Of Unity And Diversity

There are different grounds of unity. There is family unity, social unity, institutional unity, national or ethnical unity, and many other formations of people that need some kind of common ground to be united by.

We are united in Christ's death and resurrection. We have died with Him for sin and resurrected with Him for new life. (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12) We are called to be children of God and we are brothers and sisters to each other in Christ. (Romans 8:16, 1John 3:1–11). This must be the strongest way to be united and connected with as we are all forgiven!

We believe and confess it with our Heidelberg Catechism,

Question 32: Q. But why are you called a Christian?

Because by faith I am a member of Christ *1

and so I share in his anointing. *2 (Q31)

I am anointed to confess his name, *3

to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, *4

to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, *5

and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity. *6

*1 1 Cor. 12:12-27 *2 Acts 2:17 (Joel 2:28); 1 John 2:27 *3 Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10; Heb. 13:15 *4 Rom. 12:1; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 *5 Gal. 5:16-17; Eph. 6:11; 1 Tim. 1:18-19 *6 Matt. 25:34; 2 Tim. 2:12

This confession is the basis of our unity – otherwise we are all diverse. Our diversity originates from our creation and sinful nature. We are created with different talents and aptitudes, gifts and capabilities, proclivities and predispositions.

Some was born musically talented, some with athletic capabilities, others as handymen. Their abilities were not fully developed from birth, but they had the seed of these abilities from the beginning.

The same is the truth with sin. (Romans 3:22–24) ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all. (Romans 11:32) We are all sinners, and we need the pardon of God through Jesus Christ. We support and befriend each other, praying in Spirit for the Advocate to be able to stand firm in his will that was revealed in Jesus Christ and written in the Bible.

In this way we are always living in unity supporting each other's diversity! We must do this, we are called to serve each other in Christ!

We are also called and anointed to confess the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to the world! He needs to grow in us and through us "as a living sacrifice of thanks"!

We all are diverse but also united in Christ “to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life”. We all were born to be able to commit any sin (Romans 7:18–20) without the ability to recognize the real weight of destruction it might cause (2Corinthians 4:3–4). We all were born with different sinful orientations to fight against these till death in faith with the powerful name of Jesus. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (1Timothy 6:12)

Therefore, we have to find God’s revelation and definition for good and bad in every matter of life. God helps us giving his living Word to humankind (Mark 13:31, Luke 21:33). It is a sacrifice as we must deny many things in our lives that seem good or natural – but these are sins in the eyes of the Lord according to His revelation, that does not change.

We find both in the old and the new testament clearly that God has intended sexual relationships within the bounds of marriage, between a man and a woman; and all other sexual relationships are sin (Genesis 1: 27–28, Genesis 18–19, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Judges 19, Romans 1:18–27, 1Corinthians 6:9–11, 1Timothy 1:9–15).

We are one in Christ who is our Lord and Saviour from sin in His Church no matter what orientations we have – but we do not favour, commend, approve or celebrate anything that is against the will of God and originates from our enemy, Satan, whose will is to destroy the perfect creation of God and His intentions with us; His people.

We are equally belonging and worthy of God’s grace, mercy and pardon (Psalm 53:2–3). Jesus said: ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32) It is me, it is you, it is LGBTQI. We are one in Jesus name – and we are diverse.

We are worshipping together as equals! Children of God are patient, accepting, loving and caring to each other proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the freedom of sins. ²⁷ Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” (Luke 18:27)

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)