



CHURCH OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN CONGO CDCC

SERMON ON CONGO WEEK

By Rev. Noel Regis Matipa Text

John: 17:21-23

INTRODUCTION

Today, we address a theme that burns at the heart of Jesus' prayer: Unity. Not a superficial unity, but a deep, living, universal communion, a worldwide communion.

In **John 17:21-23**, Jesus prays not only for his present disciples, but for all those who will believe in him throughout the ages.

He prays that we may be one, as he is one with God. This prayer is a cry of love, a call to unity that transcends borders, cultures, languages, and traditions.

Today, in a world divided by conflict, injustice, and plagues, the Church is called to embody another reality – that of a people united by the love of Christ through grace and faith and engaged in a communion that testifies to the world that Jesus is the solution.

Beloved siblings, I hope you will agree with me that every Christian is called to communion that testifies to the world that we are disciples of Jesus.

To fully understand the quintessence of our theme, we will explore the following four points:

- I. UNITY AS A REFLECTION OF THE TRINITY
- II. A COMMUNION THAT WITNESSED TO THE WORLD
- III. HOW TO EXPERIENCE THIS UNITY IN PRACTICE
- IV. UNITY AS A PROPHETIC SIGN

I. Unity as a reflection of the Trinity

Jesus does not ask for a simple agreement among believers. He prays for a very deep communion or unity, like that between God and the Son. This unity is spiritual and interior, founded on love, truth, and mission (John 13:34-35). It transcends ethnic, cultural, and geographic boundaries. Christian unity is not uniformity, but harmony in diversity.

II. A communion that bears witness to the world.

Jesus links the unity of believers to the impact of the Gospel in the world. When Christians are united, the world sees God's love incarnate. Divisions weaken witness; unity makes it powerful.

Beloved in God, global fellowship is Jesus' direct response to the believing world.

III. How to experience this unity in practice

Let's talk about this point. We propose some practical ideas for this fellowship.

- Common prayer - interceding for Christians in other countries, regions, or difficult situations.
- Sharing resources - supporting churches in distress, missions, and humanitarian projects.
- Hospitality - welcoming foreign believers, learning from their experiences.
- Inter-church collaboration - working together despite denominational difficulties. Acts 2:44, "All who believed were together and had all things in common."

IV. UNITY AS A PROPHETIC SIGN

In a world fractured by conflicts, plagues, injustices, and divisions, the Church is called to be a prophetic sign, a global family united by Christ, a people who aim for reconciliation, peace and justice. In John, Jesus says, "***By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.***"

CONCLUSION

Beloved in God,

Jesus' prayer in John 17 is an urgent call to live in a communion that transcends human barriers, a vision of a global, united, loving, and missionary Church. Amen.

God bless you!