

March 12
Lenten Week 4
Week 10 of Quest 52

1. *1Corinthians 12:12-13: "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." NIV84*

We read this week in Quest 52 that Jesus's family, the Church, is composed of many types of people from a variety of backgrounds with a multitude of gifts and abilities. But despite the differences, all believers have one thing in common - faith in Christ. In this essential truth, the Church (family) finds unity. All believers are baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body of believers, the church. Let us pray that this body of believers here at OCC come together as one big family using our gifts and abilities to build each other up and welcome all into Jesus's family, the Church.

2. *Ephesians 2:14: "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility." NIV 84*

Ephesians 3:6: "This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus." NIV84

Christ has destroyed the barriers people have built between themselves. Because these walls have been removed, we can have real unity with people who are not like us. This is true reconciliation. Because of Christ's death, we are all one. Let us pray for real unity of God's people. Pray that, as members of God's household sharing together in the promise of Christ Jesus, we may help to spread the word of God to all people groups all over the world, thus building a bridge to connect all God's people together as one family in Christ Jesus.

3. *Colossians 3:11-14: "Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."*

The Christian church should have no barriers of nationality, race, education level, social standing, wealth, gender, religion, or power. Christ breaks down all barriers and accepts all people who come to him. Nothing should keep us from telling others about Christ Jesus or accepting into our fellowship any and all believers. Pray that we clothe ourselves with these virtues every day making them who we really are so that we can help others find and follow Jesus.