

**One in Christ:
United to each other**

**First talk:
Members of one another**

The texts

- 'one another' or 'each other' 60 times in NT

We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [Romans 12.5]

Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbour, for we are all members of one body [Greek: one another] [Ephesians 4.25]

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [John 15.4,5]



God's All Together Project

- **points back to creation plan**
- **God creates out of who he is, a plural unity, a community.**
- *God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*
[Genesis 1.27]
- **A oneness of people built into creation's DNA:
before the Fall, we were...**

God's All Together Project

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**A oneness of people built into creation's DNA:
before the Fall, we were...**

- **conjoined**
- **interwoven**
- **interdependent**
- **interactive**

You (singular) are not created in the image and likeness of God; We (plural) are.

God's All Together Project

God recreated humankind in his own image, in the image of Christ he recreated them.

After the Fall, a collapse of the plural unity of humanity:

- disjointed
- disconnected
- independent
- one versus another

The re-creation of humankind

God recreated humankind in his own image, in the image of Christ he recreated them.

- **Reconciled to God (and to one another)**
 - All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ [2 Corinthians 5.18]
 - I am reconciled to God in Christ
 - We are reconciled to God in Christ
 - We are reconciled to each other in Christ in whom each of us is reconciled [Paul's argument in chapter 6]

The re-creation of humankind

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- **Reconciled to God (and to one another)**
 - Reconciled through Christ's death to each other: "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son..."
 - Reconciled through Christ's life for shared holiness: "... how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" [Romans 5.10]

Re-creation for shared holiness

- **But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present [all of] you [together] holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.. [Colossians 1.22]**
- **This reconciliation leads to**
 - **Mutual love [1 Peter 1.22]**
 - **Mutual building into a spiritual house/kingdom**
 - **Shared formation into a mutual priesthood**
 - **Shared liturgy [work of the people] of spiritual sacrifices**
 - **Shared proclamation**

Witness to the world

- The reconciliation of 'all things' [Colossians 1.20]
- Christ is the 'great sacrament', the outward and visible sign that all things are brought together in and through the cross
- The Church is the 'one sacrament' of Christ, the outward and visible sign of Christ in the world. We really are the body of Christ.
- This is for the setting free of the cosmos from its bondage to decay: it will 'obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.' [Romans 8.21]

