

REFLECTIONS

June 22, 2008

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Colossians 2:2

Infectious Love

The years apart brought no separation. When they came together it seemed as if they had parted only yesterday and picked up right where they left off the day before. Oh, they did many of the usual things that other high school graduating classes do at their reunions. They looked back in time at the way they were, and relived memories that just won't die. They told stories on themselves and each other, looked at old pictures, and listened to the music of their day, but with this class there is something deeper.

Even those who were not a part of that graduating class could feel something uncommon about it. There is an unmistakable bond that is rarely found. Since graduation, class members dispersed far and wide to walk separate journeys through life. The travels led to diverse experiences along the way; but time, space, and diversity did not weaken the relationship. It was strengthened by them. The warmth of a caring family has grown; and indeed an infectious love permeates the being of every class member then reaches beyond to those who were not a part of them. And they become a part of it too. They share a special blessing.

The body of Christ's universal church is much the same. Though its members disperse far and wide to walk separate journeys and to encounter diverse life experiences, time, space and diversity do not weaken the bond of unity. Rather the body is strengthened by them. The warmth of a caring family supplies an infectious love that permeates every being within the church then reaches beyond to those who are not a part of it. And they become a part of it too. They share a special blessing.

And so it is also with our own lives. Just as those blessed to be a part of a rare high school class, we are blessed to be a part of the body of Christ's Church. We are united by an infectious love that permeates our very being. But there is something deeper. Through the lives we live that infectious love can reach beyond to those who are not yet a part of it. And they can become a part of it too. And they will share our special blessing.

"You are the light of the world,"

Richard +

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