

## Parson to Person

### THE REGATHERING

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:11–16 NKJV).*

It is no revelation to the maturing Christian that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith, that He is building His Church, that the gates of hell cannot and will not prevail against it, and that He is building us up together as living stones to form the spiritual house wherein His presence dwells. We are indeed the temple of the Living God—in the Church Age—and do indeed offer up spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God as we serve, worship and live together.

As mentioned above, a part of God’s working in the Church Age is that we are being built up together, that we gather together, that we are all joined together, and as Paul mentioned in the passage, that we come together, are joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, and that we come to be a perfect man bringing about edification for the separate and corporate members in love.

The word Paul uses in this case is “agape.” This “love” is others centered and others focused. It is self-effacing for the purposes of serving others and is willing to yield to the needs of others—as called upon.

This is what we have been doing under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the giftings He has provided men in local leadership—here in the church. Please note, *“He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith.”*

As we come back into the building today—after a difficult and confusing period of time—we come back in “together” to generate a greater “unity in the faith” and look for ways to edify the church—in “love.” For this reason, today I want to refrain from sermonizing and teaching for the purposes of developing greater unity, communication, sharing, praying and healing together for the glory of God.

Welcome “home” my friends. Let’s seize the day and make this odd circumstance serve to make us better, closer, stronger than ever before—by the power of the Holy Spirit and the working by which he is building us up together in the faith, for the faith, by faith.

I love you all, Pastor Paul