

**Christian Unity:
(Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life)**



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Christian Unity (Part I)

A story comes to mind immediately: During the Vietnam era, A Catholic priest and a Protestant missionary try to convert a peasant. The priest talks to him about Christ, Communion, Church, etc. The missionary talks about Christ's love, salvation, etc. After meeting both well meaning servants of God, the peasant replies, when you both agree I will follow the one Christ you agree to.

A dream that developed in my inner being since I moved out of Egypt in 1969. If you live in one country all your life, you might not develop any thoughts outside your immediate surroundings. My immediate surroundings as I was growing up were very fulfilling: Family (all Copts); School, a place to battle for good grades because education was the ticket to middle class financial survival through a worthwhile degree; i.e. to become a doctor, engineer, accountant, .. ; to work against prejudice because of your religion (Gybt, Nussrani); and Church which was heaven on earth. I spent all day Friday in Church (8:00 AM - 10:00 PM) even during final exam weeks. We taught Sunday School, did tautring in all subjects 6 thru 12th grade. We also visited homes in many poverty stricken parts of Cairo: Pullack, Faransawy, Mehamara, Sheikh Aly, Sabtia, Qulaly. Some of the much older adults from Cairo, reading this, will know what areas I am talking about. There was a great fulfillment.

We had a saintly Pope; Anba Kyrillos Al-Saddis (Cyril VI); whom many of us knew very close. Some great bishops including: Anba Shenouda (HH Pope Shenouda III), Anba Samuel, Anba Domadius, .. etc. Great priests and Sunday school teachers: Fr. Salib Sorial, Fr. Ibrahim Aziz Gindy, Fr. Marcos Daoud, Fr. Morcos Girgis, ... etc.

Best Sunday School teachers, some became priests and bishops: Ustaaz Kamal Habeeb (the departed Bishop Poemen), Ustaz Soliman Nessim, Ustaaz Fawzy Wahba Habashy (deacon and very successful businessman), Ustaaz Waheeb Atalla (Fr. Ishak Attalla), Ustaz Wadie Asaad... etc. And Great Fathers of Confession: Fr. Bassellious Basselious, and Fr. Mikhail Ibrahim; etc.

You get out of the forest, you can see the trees. True, the trees in Egypt were very fruitful indeed. But, it accounts only for 10-15 million people in a world population of 5 Billion! What about 250 Million other Orthodox Christians in the World. What about 1.1 Billion Roman Catholics in the World, and what about 1.5 Billion Protestant Christians in the World. Who is going to be saved, and who is not!

We also have our own prejudices based on our proud Orthodox heritage of the keepers of the Orthodox faith. Egypt produced Oregon, Deditimus (the blind), Antonious the Father of all Monks, Athanassious the Apostolic and Cyril the Great Pillar of faith; ... But, we have to admit that we also became completely isolated after 451 AD and the unfortunate Chalcedon council. Thank good the Orthodox family of Churches is now getting united again in faith. And we are a signature away from being able to have communion with the Greeks, Russians, Bolgarians, Romanians, Serbians and few other nationalities in eastern Europe and around the globe. That to me is a great achievement of HH Pope Shenouda and the Synod of our Proud Coptic Orthodox Church. An agreement was reached in 1992 and some minor final refinements remain to achieve full unity.

Unity does not desolve nationality, there will continue to be the Coptic, Syrian, Armenian, Bolgarian traditions,.. etc. But at least if we gather in one place for any reason, we can have communion. At the present we can have communion only with the oriental family of Orthodox Churches: Coptic, Syrian, Armenian, Ethiopean & Areterian, and Orthodox Church of India.

We need to move towards better understanding with the Roman Catholics (20 years of dialog were abrupted by unfortunate events in 1996!). Also, understandings with the major Protestant denominations: Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, ... etc. need to be reached through dialogues. This can take many years but when it happens there will be more understanding of each other and respect of each other and may be someday we can remove the stigma attached to Christianity since 451 AD. There will be no need for one denomination to try to convert members of the other, instead all denominations can concentrate their energy on preaching the Gospel of Christ, the Good News to those who are not in the Christian fold, so that: "he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:12)

In this spirit when Fr. bassellious Sedrak and I were invited to the service at St. louis Cathedral in which HH Pope John Paul II presided there were 95 Interfaith representatives (100 were invited). From Christian denomonataions there was at least 60 representatives represnting 30 denominations or more!

HH John Paul II, received a formal present from our Church in St. Louis, a large commemorative plate with a Coptic painting of the Holy Virgin St. Mary (theotokos) carrying the Holy Infant; our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. I also included other gifts of personal nature since I was invited: A book I wrote for Youth, and a Book I wrote on the Life Wonders and Miracles of St. Abraam the departed bishop of Fayoum, the Friend of the poor! I was told that HH Pope John Paul II is a writer, poet, and avid reader. I also realize that he is not in the best of health; that is obvious if you even watch him on TV. After the meeting I sent him a personal letter, God Willing, I will share the letter with you in the second part of this article.

PS. The material presented is personal opinion and does not necessarily express the views of any formal Church organization of any kind!

Christian Unity (Part II)

As promised, the letter I sent to HH Pope John Paul II; Jan 29, 1999.

Jan 29, 1999

I am a member of the Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Louis, Missouri. I was born in Egypt, belong to the Coptic Orthodox Faith. I was blessed by your visit to St. Louis. I was even more touched by being among the faithful in the Vespers Service at the Basilica of St. Louis. I wish you could have stayed longer, but even seeing you on TV is a great blessing. Is it possible that someday we can have Communion as brothers in one faith, our faith in Christ. I pray we do it soon. His Holiness Pope Shenouda III, our Holy Father is only two years younger than Your Holiness. He is also an impressive man of strong faith in Christ our Lord; and a Great Ministry that takes him around the world almost every year. I wish you and him meet before one of you is called by the Heavenly Father the God of Us all to Heaven. Pope Shenoud III met with the Departed Pope Paul VI in 1971.

Asking your prayers and blessings, please find attached an article I wrote for our Coptic Church Digest: <http://pharos.bu.edu/cn>

H.H. John Paul II, We Love You too. Please remember us in your prayers.

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PS. I sent Your Holiness a copy of the Book: "Anba Abraam, the Departed Bishop of Fayoum" in the package presented by Fr. Bassillious Sedrak at the Basilica.

In Part III, a quick presentation of 9 differences and how to resolve 7 out of 9

Christian Unity (Part III): 9 Major Difference

Many of our blessed contemporary bishops wrote about the theological differences between the Orthodox and Catholic Church. Most recently His Grace Bishop Serabion wrote several articles in Arabic Keraza on this subject. I also wrote about it in COPT Net in 1996 & 1997. Here are some major differences:

1. The Nature of Christ,
2. The Procession of the Holy Spirit,
3. The Nature of the Birth of the Holy Virgin Mary,
4. Indulgences and Writs of Forgiveness,
5. The Use of Engraved Images for Church Decoration,
6. Baptism by Sprinkling,
7. The Use of unleavened Bread for the Bread of the Service,
8. Purgatory "Mathar"
9. Supremacy of Peter.

1. The Nature of Christ:

This used to be the most sticking subject, until most recently. The unfortunate ("Mashoom") Council of Chalcedon, caused the first major rift in the One Catholic (Universal), Apostolic Church. After Chalcedon we anathemised each other. But, because all the Orthodox Churches reached agreement in 1992 concerning the Nature of Christ, which is now referred to as "The Nature of Christ." This is no longer an issue. It took 1500 years, but Praise the Lord it is almost done.

2. The Procession of the Holy Spirit (The Felocia Issue):

The Catholic Church uses "proceeds from the Father and the Son" in their Creed which was a change added during the rule of Charlemagne (Holy Roman Emperor 800-814 AD). This can be resolved by returning back to the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed and the faith of St. Athanassious the Apostolic (the Creed of 325 AD) .

3. The Nature of the Birth of the Holy Virgin Mary:

This was a subject of debate during the Reign Pope Sixtus IV, a Franciscan, who defended the veneration of the Virgin Mother of God. establishing in 1477 the concept of the Immaculate Conception (Birth) of Mary; i.e. claiming that she was born without Adam's sin!. Going back to the early Fathers, there is no such thing.

4. Indulgences and Writs of Forgiveness:

This is again a middle ages concept not known before. However, it can be worded within the framework of intercessions of the saints rather than the use of their excess goodness which

sounds like trade and bartering. We and our Catholic brothers believe in the Intercessions of the Saints and use it as a source of help in our everyday life struggles.

5. The Use of Engraved Images for Church Decoration:

The use of statues and engraved images is against the commandments starting with the Ten Commandments. When the Pope of Rome was in St. Louis, there was two protests against him: One from a group of women activists concerning a demand for ordination of women as priests, the other was led by a group of Christians from India protesting the use of engraved images in Catholic Churches. The people from India are so incensed because the majority of their native people are Hindus who worship idols. Idols are represented by statues and engraved images. . We need to say no more. We can also look the other way!

6. Baptism by Sprinkling of Water:

For a very strict Orthodox, it is very objectionable. But, if you go to the teachings of the Apostles ('Descolia'), it was permitted to sprinkle water if water was not available in abundance; e.g. living in a desert in which case two spoons of water is required three times. Here, the Orthodox side can recommend going back to the practice started by St. John the Baptist when he baptized the Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River, fully immersing Him.

7. The Use of unleavened Bread for the Bread of the Service:

In Egypt they say: "they use bascoot" Also, when we talk about this the bread they use can be in storage for months, and the same priest can serve communion on the same altar all day long! We can also look the other way. I also discovered in dealing with non-Egyptian Orthodox Churches that our Armenian brothers use "bascoot" also. Our reason for leavened bread is that the yeast symbolizes our sins: "He took what is ours (sin) and gave us what is His (purity)" (Saturday Tasbeha). According to Archimendrite Casperian of the Armenian Church, unleavened bread symbolizes the "purity" of Jesus, He is without sin. Both symbols can be acceptable.

8. Purgatory ("Mathaar")

Purgatory: to purge. This is the most difficult issue so far. The Catholic Church teaches that there is a situation, halfway between heaven and hell. They call it purgatory. Purgatory in this teaching is a place where Christians who are not completely worthy of heaven go to be cleansed through punishment (not eternal). When the punishment is complete, they then move on to heaven. The Protestant brothers are more offended by this teaching than we can ever be. With this also comes "limboo" and according to their teaching, limboo is a place for those who do not deserve to be in heaven and their situation is because of no fault of their own, like the mentally retarded and those who do not poses the capacity to accept salvation, children who die before they are baptized .. etc. That is also where the commonly used word "in limboo" comes from. This we can not accept, but it can be discussed by theologians and may be explained better or dropped.

9. The Supremacy of Peter:

When we were at the Cathedral of St. Louis, and right after the Pope of Rome entered, it was announced by a chanter (deacon) "hear ye hear ye, now entered the successor of Peter, Christ's representative on earth.; listen to him... etc." I am not going to dwell on this subject, but I would like to simply say two things: A) Peter did not preach in Rome at all. St. Paul the Apostle of the Gentiles (non Jewish Nations) is the one responsible for the conversion of the Romans to Christianity. He wrote the Epistle to the Romans (listed as the first Epistle of Paul) and was jailed and martyred in Rome. He also was a Roman citizen, more suitable to preach to his own nation. Peter was the apostle of the Jews, just a guest in Rome when he was captured and martyred; B) The words of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Book of John (John 21:15) are words of rebuke and not words of praise. Jesus was rebuking him for denying his master three times in front of a maid. The advice to tend the flock (sheep) is directed to every servant from the youngest Sunday School servant to the oldest and wisest clergy to attend to the flock caring for them day and night. About the rock, it means that the rock of faith is what the Churches are to be built on. But concerning the keys of the kingdom of God, these were given to the Disciples and Apostles and those who follow them through faith (belief), confessing Christ as Lord and Savior, and the laying of the hands of those in authority, i.e. our fathers the bishops because "as it was, so will it be from generation to generation, and forever. Amen.

Christian Unity (Part IV)

The Protestant Connection

When talking about Christian Unity, one can not ignore the Protestant connection. The Protestants as a block represent the majority of Christians today, although they belong to hundreds of separate groups, they can easily pool their efforts in Evangelism because they have little regard for tradition. They are very dynamic and very effective in the works of Evangelism. When I was growing up, we had a joke about Church songs dynamics, when it is new it is Protestant, when the song gets old it becomes Orthodox.

When I came to the USA to go to graduate school at Iowa State University in 1969, there was only two Coptic Churches in the USA, St. Mark in LA, CA and St. Mark in Jersey City, NJ. I was 2500 miles from LA and 1500 miles from Jersey. The only affordable means of communications at the time was through regular mail. I needed to go to Church on Sundays. I visited most of the Churches in Ames, IA; a city of 35,000 people at the time; and settled as a "guest" at the Grand Ave. Baptist Church. The reason was a man named Rev. John Hamilton, he preferred to be called Brother John. John and his wife Virjama originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma showed the abundance of the love of Christ in their actions. They formed what was called "The Baptist Students Union" and extended a welcome invitation to all the foreign students in this small college town. Their weekly meetings of singing and Bible study was always well attended. They also arranged a few out of town retreats free of charge every year. I was always impressed with their knowledge of the Bible, they memorized the verses and used them well in presenting their arguments. However, I was and still am a firm believer in our Coptic Orthodox way. Although, I did not share communion because it is against my Orthodox faith, I was encouraged to present the Orthodox view during discussions in Bible studies. Rev Hamilton always referred to me as Mr. Bill Hanna from the Coptic Orthodox "religion" of Egypt. Even after I left Ames, Iowa; I received two letters from Brother John every year to the day he passed away in 1996. One message was a bulk mailing to a couple of thousand people he met in his Church over the years, and another message that was a private greeting and a special prayer on my birthday. This love and care continued for 25 years. This is the love of Christ and it is the beginning of the best dialog between an Orthodox and a Protestant Christian.

The dialog between the Orthodox and Protestant Churches of the world already started in 1946 through the formation of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and in our native land there is additionally the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). HH. Pope Shenouda, III was elected co-president of both councils and blessed both organizations with his great wisdom and abundant knowledge of the gospel of Christ. His Eminence Metropolitan Bishoy, the Secretary of the Synod of the Coptic Church is extremely active in both organizations. Through such organizations, we can increase understanding and minimize the flow of undesirable ideas and minimize the drifting away from the word of the Gospel.

The dialog starts with good relations. Fortunately, our mother Church was able to achieve good relations with all the Churches represented in the MECC. There are cordial relations among Egyptians in general and among the Churches in particular. Egyptians more than we do here, exchanging greetings on many occasions religious and otherwise. This however is no guarantee that one Church will not try to grab converts from another using legitimate means such as good

teachings and illegitimate means such as the use of financial aid and/or relief to gain people over. However, since they have developed a framework of friendship, the leaders can talk to each other and resolve differences in a spirit of Christian love.

I found out in every day dealings with individuals from other faiths that it is better to emphasize common beliefs and then present differing points of view based on clear Biblical references.

Common Point of Christian Faith (Supported by Biblical Reference):

The majority of mainstream Christians, would agree that:

1. We, believe in One God;
2. We, believe in a Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; three manifestations, One God head;
3. We, believe that in the fullness of time, Christ was born of the Virgin Mary and of the Holy Spirit. He lived among people, full God and Full Man.
4. He became man, suffered, was crucified and was buried during the reign of Pontius Pilate.
5. We, believe that He arose from the dead on the third day, appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the disciples and Apostles, more than 500 people (according to St. Paul) for forty days.
6. After 40 days , He ascended to the heavens.
7. We, believe that He sent the Holy Spirit on the day of the Pentecost while the disciples and Apostles were assembled in the upper room.
8. We believe that the Holy Spirit is active in the Church;
9. We believe that Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead every one according to his deeds.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the world to come. This will be the place of eternal life (Heavenly Jerusalem) with Christ for those who are pleasing to him; and eternal damnation for those who do not have their names written in the book of life.

Moving along, we find out that some of the seven sacraments, not all, are commonly accepted among all Christians. If you examine the teachings of the Lutheran Church which is the closest to the teachings of the Apostolic Churches, you find out they accept all seven sacraments, even priesthood.

A quick look shows that most Protestant Churches accept: Baptism, Confirmation, Unction (Healing of the Sick), Holy Matrimony. Some do not accept our priesthood, but their leaders are fulfilling the tasks of priesthood to some degree (they prefer to call their pastors or ministers (servants)). I was talking to an Anglican Bishop the other day, and asked his title, he replied, a servant of the servants translated bishop. Confirmation and Penance are practiced in most Churches in a different way!

Moving along, we all accept the same Bible, and for the most part when the technicalities are put aside we all through the grace of God will interpret it the same way. The one major shortcoming is the understanding of the Eucharist (Communion). To us it is partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ; to some of them it is only a memory. Even this can be explained correctly through the scripture, the Word of God.

Areas of difference but through love can be explained and accepted include: Intercession, the Veneration of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Saints and Martyrs, the Holy Cross and of Icons used in the Church; and the acceptance of the priesthood of the Church as was handed down from Christ to his Disciples and from the disciples to those that followed them.

Part V (Final), will discuss what it means to be United in Christ.

Christian Unity (Part V): Final Concluding Remarks

When I decided to write this series of articles, it seemed straight forward: Intro, Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants, ..etc However, when I started to work on the conclusion, it got extremely difficult. Two days ago, I could not sleep. I had the final remarks on my mind and I also had a business conference call to Israel on my mind also. I got up and grabbed two note pads. A yellow pad for electronics and computers and a white pad for Christian unity final remarks. The yellow pad was easy, we are going to design and build a device that can cut the cost of comm on aircraft in half. The white pad was difficult. I wrote several concluding remarks and found them unfit for publication. The Board of COPT Net will most certainly be unhappy with me. I tore it up and prayed. I heard a little voice saying: William . ramble. There are messages for individuals and groups in the following ramblings. If you are unhappy with what I wrote please let me know, if you know more; please enlighten me. All in all, I wrote because I believe in the message even if I am not able to convey it correctly, may be someday I will know better and speak wiser "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints," (Ephesians 1:19). For today I say what I know asking God's Forgiveness and infinite Love to cover us all.

Dates that every true Christian should know:

- 1450 BC Moses the Arch-prophet wrote the (Torah) First Five Chapters of The Old Testament
- 1000 BC David was Prophet and King
- 1 AD The Savior was born
- 4 AD Christ suffered, crucified, died, was buried, and arose again
- 43 AD St. Mark the Evangelist, Saint, martyr, and Beholder of the Divine Came to Alexandria. He taught us the father and the Son and The Holy Spirit. He fed us the manna (bread of life)
- 274 AD First formal Church Building Since St. Mark Cathedral in Alexandria (pope thaonas, 16th)
- 285 AD? St. Anthony became First Monk
- 325 AD Council of Nicea against Arios.
The Deacon Athanassious wrote the Creed of Faith
- 381 AD Council of Constantinople against Macdonius, a bishop from Palestine teachings against the Divinity of the Holy Spirit
- 431 AD Council of Ephesus against Nestor (Nastor) teachings against the Divinity of the Son
- 451 AD Chalcedonia: Nature of Christ (A divided church)
- 641 AD Islamic Invasion

1151 AD Ottomans Enter Constantinople; East is East & West is West (More Division)

1517 AD Ninety-Five Theses (More Division)

1798 AD Napoleon Invades Egypt; French Catholic Influence, (More Divisions)

1847-1853AD Pope Kyrillos IV Father of Reformation very good. Finally, we are joining the world

1867-1929AD Pope Kyrillos V (Youhanna Al-Nassekh)/ Ordained Anba Abraam... good

1881AD British Invasion, Anglican and Protestant Missionaries (More Divisions)

1929-1942AD Pope Yoanness

1944-1945AD Pope Makarios III

1946-1956AD Pope Youssab II Coptic Nation Group Exiled Him (difficult time)

1959-1971AD Pope Kyrillos VI A man of Prayer, Excellent, we are getting somewhere

1971- AD Pope Shenouda III The Teacher of the Century, The Second Athanasios, Excellent, we are completing the mission

We started with a story, we also like to end with a story; HH Pope Kyrillos VI was good friend of people from many persuasions: Coptic, Moslem, and Protestant you name it. When, HH saw a cousin of the Late bishop Samuel, a Ph.D. in Psychology, who was not religious, he asked him why don't you come to see me I like to see you always. The man became very close to HH and to show him how much the Pope loved him, the Pope asked him to sign in his place on a deed of land that became part of the present day St. Menas Monastery. HH gained an a-religious (man without religious affiliation) and made a very religious man out of him. He won one for Christ, and another and another. Also, he was friends with the Moslem engineer in charge of antiquity in old Cairo, and that is how he came to have a lease for the windmill that he lived in as Fr. Mina the Solitaire ("Motawahed"). He was a good friend of the head of the Egyptian Anglican Church, Rev Ibrahim Saiid and he used to joke with him, why don't you come and I will give you a most proper attire and make you a priest. He also attracted many young people to the life of monasticism by his example that was the beginning of the great renewal of Egypt's monastic life in the early 1950's.

We as Coptic Christians can also win many to Christ through our good example: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:17). Some might want to join our Churches, others would like to follow our example in their own churches. I know one who talks to coworkers and impress on them the importance of knowing Christ, and practicing the teachings of their own Churches, because sometimes we might not be ready to accept people if we are not able to serve our own! He also receives invitations to join other Churches, and he refuses politely with a smile, because his Church satisfies all his spiritual needs.

The children of the writer attended a Catholic School, but did not share communion and moreover always had something Orthodox to add in religion class which was much appreciated, and why not! Johnny wrote a report about the Life of Pope Kyrillos VI which was a show case at St. Louis Priory (A top notch Benedictine School). Jimmy's Senior year Thesis was on the history of Islamic Egypt: Islamic Invasion to Assassination of Anwar Saddat. A research project that he was not allowed to discuss with Mom and Dad until it was complete. You learn many things you did not know, and things you wish could be changed but unfortunately (with God's Permission) are cast in concrete in the History of Nations!

Communism started in 1917 in Russia, and in 1991 it was abolished being called an undesirable system of governing. The German people were told that it will take 20 years to achieve unification, but the masses tore down the wall of separation in Berlin in a twinkle of an eye in 1991!

When the Pope of Rome was in St. Louis, he mentioned that he will go to Jerusalem in the year 2000 (The beginning of the third millennium). He also asked that those who left the Church come back for the Church to have a new good start in the new millennium giving a general apology and asking forgiveness from all that were offended by the Church.

In these articles, we never mentioned Islam, because sensitivities among the Coptic Egyptians in General, might add fear of retributions; but The highest priority for the Vatican Secretary of State and the Head of the Ecumenical Committee in the Vatican is the dialog with "Our Moslem Brothers" why?

Have you seen the movie Field of Dreams: it is a nice innocent movie, the punch line is: if you build it they will come? So, what will happen if we build a foundation for unity, all the Orthodox Churches will join. We all profess the same faith, we will become a bigger family and instead of a million here and 100,000 there we will all be encouraged to know that we have a much bigger family that we belong to. The bigger family of all Orthodox Christians is 250+ Millions world wide. The Copts will go to a Coptic Church, the Syrians will attend the Syrian Church, the Romanians the Romanian Church, the Greek their own Church; etc. But if we happen to be in the same place, we can have communion as one happy family, strong and indivisible under God. There will be no motivation to convert among the members of the same family. There will be no advantage to gain in a domestic dispute, because we are now one! This is not far off. It is only a signature away!

Imagine, if the Roman Catholics join this union, we will now become 1,350,000,000+ million people able to support each other and help each other. Also, if we happen to be in the same place, we can share communion.

The numbers get staggering if you add the Protestants, we now are 2,850,000,000 (2/3 of the World Population) and why not. We might have to stop using the intercessional prayer : "the worship of idols, please uproot entirely from the world .." Because it will be removed; eradicated like the eradication of the plague. This might sound naïve, but as I go back to the simple truth of the Gospel, I read: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. " (Philippians 2:10-11)

The story of our childhood is even more applicable today than it was yesterday, when a father gave his 12 children twelve separate twigs, they were able to break every single one. But when they bundled their twigs together, they were unbreakable. Preaching the Gospel of Christ would be a picnic, a beautiful retreat like shaam el-nessim, because we will be united and our efforts concentrated. "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. " (John 4:36)

"Glory always be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. One God Amen"

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Blessed Lent, pray for Christian Unity. God Bless you and yours with all His blessings and fulfills your life missions and all your sincere dreams; please consider sending a donation

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PS. The material presented is personal opinion and does not necessarily express the views of any formal Church organization of any kind!