

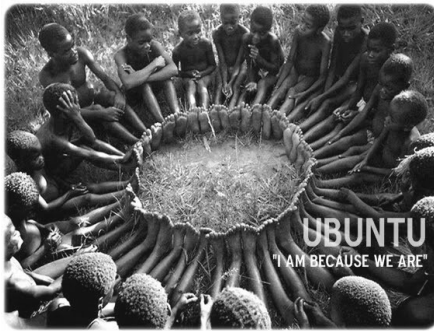
# The Bulwark

AUGUST 25, 2024

## “I AM BECAUSE WE ARE”

In a story that first appeared in 2012, and has been frequently seen on sundry internet sources, it is one that conveys a powerful message. According to reports, an anthropologist, who had been conducting research among the Bantu people of South Africa, while waiting for a ride to the airport decided to create a game for some of the children. He got a basket, filled it with fruit and candy and placed it near a tree. Whoever got to the basket first, the basket and contents was theirs. When he shouted, “go”, none of the children bolted toward the goal; rather the children joined hands together and then ran to the tree.

Taken aback, the anthropologist asked why they chose to run as a group, one little girl replied, “how could one of us be happy when all the others would be sad?” A word that appeared in some of the stories that initially reported this incident is “ubuntu”, which is translated “humanity to others.” It is often used to remind all that, “I am because we are.” The children truly cared for one another and couldn’t fathom enjoying the bounty without sharing it with the others. Devoid of selfish desire, elementary love of neighbor rose to the top. Truly there is a lot we can learn from children, and this is a classic example.



Notice what Paul wrote to the Galatians, as seen in chapter five, verse fourteen. *“For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”* Jesus on His part also identified the importance of love of neighbor after He had pointed out the need for the individual to *“love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”* (Mark 12:30) Which, of course is the greatest commandment.

There is also another aspect to consider, especially with respect to those who have put on Christ. That being we are joined together with those of like precious faith. We, in essence become one with one another. Peter writes, *“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.”* (1Peter 1:22) In the fourth chapter of Ephesians Paul sets forth a beautiful picture of the oneness that is found in Christ, take note of what he penned in verse sixteen. *“From who the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of it-*

*self in love.”* While there are many definitions of the word love, one being, unselfish concern for the good of another, which seems to be what Paul is seeking to stress.

It is really quite simple when you think about it. Inasmuch as Christ loves and cares for us, we move that forward by the love and care we make evident to one another (see 2Corinthians 1:2-4; 1Corinthians 12:13-27; 1John 3:11, 4:11) *“Let us”* is found twelve times in the book of Hebrews; an open appeal to recognize the need to come together as one. Think back to what the little girl said as to why the children acted as one. They embraced the meaning of the word “ubuntu”, which they knew meant “I am because we are.” (wbe)

### A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

- 7054 Winnetka Ave.  
Winnetka, CA 91306
- 818-795-5566
- Bruce Evans  
Minister
- Website:  
[winnetkachurchofchrist.com](http://winnetkachurchofchrist.com)