

## Lutheran Identity – What does this mean?

July 8, 2012

### Rites of Worship are Adiaphora But how will we use our freedom?



*Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good. - 1 Thess. 5.1*

*Mark those who cause division and offenses contrary to the doctrine you have learned and separate from them. Romans 16.16f*

*. . . but the Jerusalem above is free, **which is the mother of us all.** Gal. 4.26*

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How does I Thess. 5.1 apply to discarding the church's liturgy? How did Luther apply this?

How does church as "Mother" of us all effect our view of Liturgy? Is it ever right to tell your mother you demand she have a make over? Why is that out of the question? What's the essential relationship of Mother (/Father) to child?

While worship is an adiaphoron, is it Lutheran for one to sever himself from the church's (Mom and Dad's) liturgy and make innovation his hallmark? What happens when children control the household instead of the Mother and Father?

What do you do when false doctrine is found in a contemporary praise song and people say, I know it's not quite right, but I like it? How does a strong conscience react to this situation? A weak conscience? An erring conscience? Consider Emmanuel anecdotally. Ex.: See the famous '70's youth rally hymn: ***They'll Know We are Christian's by Our Love.***

Discuss its author / his 1968 context. How does this hymn flow from the '68 Chicago anti-war *zeitgeist*? How would that movement interpret Luther's telling Zwingli he "was of a different spirit?"

To whom is this hymn sung? Is the goal of Christianity to "guard each man's dignity and to save each man's pride?" How does the *zeitgeist* interpret things like "closed communion" and doctrinal separation/telling people they're wrong?

What harm comes to Lutheranism if Christian freedom is raised above the Biblical (God's) requirement to wisely examine our context, preserve what is good, and be separate and distinct from erring church bodies? If what a person experiences in our worship is exactly what he experiences in Baptist or Methodist worship, are we demonstrating our being 'separate' from their doctrine? Does open communion originate in the Roman Catholic, Lutheran or Reformed Church? Are Lutherans practicing open communion Lutheran? If it's a valid question can you in good conscience commune where open communion is being practiced? If you're not sure, are you communing in faith (Romans 14.23) or sinning?

## **They'll Know We are Christians by our Love**

by Peter Scholtes (1968) [1938-2009]

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love

By our love, by our love

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love

By our love, by our love

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love