

THE POWER OF COMMON CONSENT
LUKE 14:18-----ACTS 2:1

21-98-92-

Every one present, no doubt, has experienced the pleasantness of the harmonious flow of sound waves. Just to be awakened at night by the orchestra on the front porch playing "When you and I were young Maggie" "Old Black Joe" "Away down upon the Swanney River" Or "You are my wild irish rose," lifts you in to joyous thinking. Then to be up at the church and hear the pipe organ seemingly at a distance and gradually coming nearer bringing upon its voice, gently and yet most powerfully these sweet strains, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple let all the world keep silence" your soul is lifted up and out to Him who alone can answer the soul's longing.

Compare this with the buzzing, the pepping of the cut outs, the clanging and clashing of the busy streets. Compare it to the storm as it sends its wave dashing through the streets, its winds twisting off the trees, its lightning splitting the skys, and carrying upon its bosom the cries of children and the means of the dying, and you have a faint look in upon the difference between a life that is holding on to ~~humankind~~ God and one that is cleaving to the world.

2 Pictures
excuses for
for
Excuse for fellow
In the two texts taken for tonight we see two pictures: In the one there are these who were bidden to the great feast- bidden to come and eat bread in the Kingdom. And these people were of one accord in that they all refused to go. There was a conglomeration of excuses running true to the world. When one begins making excuses for not serving God when he is all the time holding on to the world he gets his life all in a scramble and his whole impress is one rumble, klanking, and confusion. One says, "I am not able to take the Missionary Voice, or the Advocate" and yet always able to go to every picture that comes along. Another says, "I would come to church but I have no way of conveyance." And yet Sunday is the only day they are not seen in town. These are just two illustrations out of a thousand that could be given and illustrations true of every community I have ever seen. And just as surely. Excuses excuses I get tired of hearing people all time making excuses even for the other fellow. "Oh he is such a good man at heart he is his own worse enemy. He is good enough to be in the church but just some how he never has joined." You just watch these good fellows at heart who always make excuses for not having a thing on earth to do with the church. Watch them long enough and you will soon see the main reason why they are not interested in the church. You will find that the god they serve and the God of the church are furnishing different kinds of spirits.

Spiritual harmonies
Now in the second text we have these who are agreed and of one accord concerning the spiritual harmonies of life which when received puts a man's life yea a man's soul in tune with all that is highest, most glorious, the grandest and the best. And mind you the same writer who has given us the first picture--that of the excuse makers is the man who gives us the latter--those waiting and receiving the Holy Spirit.

power in common
Consent
to have
live
We must agree that there is wonderful power in common consent whether the agreement is upon good or evil. That is to say when public sentiment is for corruption, notwithstanding the fact that in corruption there is discord the shooting, robbing, slandering, murdering, clashing and general destruction there is power to wreck homes, blight communities, poison the social fabric,

#2. The power of common consent.

lift kingdoms and nations off their hinges and send them sizzling in to hell.

white light
On the other hand where the common consent is for good in a community the lives of the people show forth the high thoughts and aims of Jesus and carry with them that wonderful white light which always appears from within. And every time a sinner comes from his den of low living out into the open he sees in the light of the good man and woman his sins and corruption in an amazing contrast. He becomes ashamed, convicted, and perchance converted which is the richest example of the power of a good life. Oh for communities whose common consent is for good.


actions
We crave for harmony in the actions of men. I saw an old man some days since in a neighboring city rushing to his work like he had to do the work of a month in the afternoon. Now to know of that old man on Sunday mornings slowly preparing for church and while on his way up there decide to go fishing will in some degree at least show you what I am trying to say when I make the statement that we crave harmony in the actions of men. Just as energetically as their lives spring toward business let them spring also toward the Lord's work.

Read God's word, sing the inspired hymns in the church and hear the reverent prayers of the saints-- then transfer at once to the busy street, the train, or lobby of the hotel and you will see something and hear something of what we crave in harmony of speech that will lift to God.

The mind that is thinking the world all the time will soon let so much of it pour in that the turbulance, the turmeil, and confusion will possess it and conglomeration will of ideas will cut off the advance in every direction. But the mind that thinks God's thoughts afetr Him will look out in straight lines to broad horizons, to widening skys, and to sure goals. No thoughts are harmonious in the true sense of the word that do not fellow these of God.

So then our slant on life to be harmonious must be viewed from the stand point of God. As He looks out upon life He does so with love, sympathy, and compassion. Following in that course, ~~anna~~ "If a man be overtaken in a fault ye who are spiritual restere such an one with the spirit of meekness lest thou also be tempted."

We have read to you in the scripture lesson the reward which comes to those who are in common consent with the world and those who are in accord with the Divine. For the first class the the one giving the supper said, afeter they had made excuse, "For I say unto you that none of those men that were bidden shall taste of my supper." The other class prayed their way to God and made connection with that power which came down upon each one of them. That power, thank God, is still in the world and only as we receive and keep that power can we move in harmony with God. When we play our life's strings in harmony with God's good and gracious will every wave ~~and~~ of discord must of necessity break at our feet but never engolf us.

 It is only as we live in accord with God that our lives become the burning candles ^{that} make plain to the eyes and hearts of men the exalted thoughts, purposes love, and lengings which God has has made possible, through Jesus, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit, for us to pass on to others. Some men visited a vaulted passage in the pallace of Nero at Rome. They were shown paintings on the plastered roof. In order to do this candles were lighted up upon a red and moved from picture to picture and the pictures other wise hidden were seen in their richness. So should our lives move ⁱⁿ in harmony with God that the light of His countenance may light our lives that the hidden things of God may be seen in their spiritual richness by our fellow men.