



When The Bonds Strain, But the Glue Holds

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Division isn't new to the Church — reformers, traditionalists, and pioneers have always pulled in different directions. What keeps us from breaking apart isn't politics, personality, or agreement, but the glue of Christ's unfailing love. This message calls us back to shared practices, humility, and a higher allegiance to Jesus. Though our bonds may feel weak, His love never fails. Rediscover the glue that holds the Body together and learn to walk in unity that reflects His Kingdom...

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Introduction

There was a time when differences in the church — and even in society — didn't feel like the end of the world. Conservatives, liberals, and progressives all sat in the same pews, worked in the same communities, and while they didn't agree, there was enough glue to keep them bound together.

We see it even in the book of Acts: the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) brought together Jewish and Gentile believers who disagreed on food laws and circumcision, yet the Spirit gave them enough unity to move forward. For centuries since, the church has carried deep tensions — reformers, traditionalists, and pioneers all pulling in different directions — but the glue of Christ's love held.

Even in our own nation, trust in the church and other institutions was once high. In the 1970s, about 70% of Americans said they had confidence in organized religion; today that number is closer to 30%. That decline mirrors what many of us feel: our practice of love has weakened, and the bonds between us feel thinner. One tug, and the bonds between us can tear — not because His love has weakened, but because we've stopped holding fast to it.

This message is about rediscovering the glue that keeps the Body of Christ from falling apart.

Key Scripture

“Above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” — Colossians 3:14 (AMP)

“Love never fails.” — 1 Corinthians 13:8 (AMP)

What the Glue Is

In the Body of Christ, the glue has never been politics or personality. It has always been Jesus Himself, made manifest through His unfailing love.

Our practice of love is not just a feeling but an action — the daily choice to:

- Bear with one another (even when we don't understand).
- Listen when it's easier to argue.
- Honor the part of the body we would be tempted to ignore.

Key Truth: *The glue of the Church is Christ Himself — His unfailing love alone binds us together and never fails.*

Why Our Bonds Feel Weak

The glue of Christ's love never weakens, but our practice of love does when exposed to the wrong conditions:

- **Fear replaces trust** → suspicion dominates.
- **Identity replaces humility** → “my camp” becomes more important than “His Kingdom.”
- **Ideology replaces Christ** → issues take the throne where only Jesus belongs.

Key Truth: *What feels like division is not a failure of Christ's love, which never fails, but the result of our tendency to stop walking in step with it.*

How Our Bonds Grow Strong Again

1. **Shared Practices** — Worship, communion, prayer, and serving side by side. Proximity strengthens bonds.
2. **Trust Rebuilt** — Not in grand gestures, but in consistent, small acts of grace and honesty.
3. **A Higher Allegiance** — Christ is the Head; our labels, tribes, or preferences are not.
4. **Humility Restored** — The willingness to say: “*I need what you carry, even if I don't yet see it clearly.*”

Key Truth: *Our practice of love regains strength when we realign with Christ by returning to shared practices, rebuilding trust, exalting Him,*

and walking in humility. His love never stopped being strong — it is we who must realign ourselves to it.

Illustration

Think of a body. The muscles around a joint pull in different directions — but that's the very thing that keeps you stable. Without opposing pull, the joint collapses. The Body of Christ is the same: conservatives, liberals, and progressives may frustrate each other, but their tension is what keeps the Church standing.

As Paul wrote, *“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you,’ and the head cannot say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you’... On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable”* (1 Corinthians 12:21–22).

And what keeps all those different parts connected is not effort or agreement, but Christ's love — the ligament that holds the body together (Ephesians 4:16).

This is why bonds may strain, but the glue — Christ's unfailing love — always holds.

A Final Reminder: The Glue Never Fails

The Church doesn't break because it has conservatives, liberals, and progressives. It breaks when believers stop letting the glue of Christ's unfailing love hold their differences in tension.

If our bonds feel weak, the answer isn't to throw out the pieces. The answer is to let the Spirit renew us in our practice of love — rooted in the love of Jesus that never fails and never runs dry.

Activation & Reflection

✧[✧] *Reflection Question:* Where has my practice of love toward others in the Body weakened? How can I lean again into Christ's love that binds us together?

Group Discussion Prompt:

- Where do you see our practice of love compromised in the church today?
- What shared practices could we lean into together to restore strength?
- How can we personally honor someone different from us this week?

Declaration:

“We are one body in Christ. His love binds us together in perfect harmony. Lord, pour out Your Spirit as fresh glue in us today. We believe Your love never fails.”