

Song Story #20 – *We All Sing Hallelujah*

From the beginning of founding Heart of the City Ministries way back in 1996, a key motivational passage of Scripture that has pushed us and ahead and helped us to carry on in the midst of deep discouragement, has been John 17. In this chapter, Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He is crucified and he prays what is called His high priestly prayer. In this prayer, He prayed that His followers would be one as He and the Father are one – so that the world would know that He was sent from the Father. It's such a radical prayer - first of all to pray that we would have such unity and also to imply that that kind of unity would be the sign to the world that Jesus is truly the Son of God! So, this song is one of several of my songs that had the goal to cast a vision for and to express in worship, that kind of John 17 unity.

The second verse of this song brings a bit of what I'd call contextual clarity to the idea of unity. Unitarianism or Universalism is not what I'd call Biblical unity. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, it says that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation – which says “be reconciled to God”. So, the starting point of unity and reconciliation, is to first be reconciled to God on His terms, then after that, we will be reconciled to one another. Just like the two greatest commandments start with “Love the Lord your God with all heart, mind and strength” and then, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. Unity for the sake of unity, isn't the unity that God is looking for. First, we get right with Him and then we become unified with each other as we all submit to Him and His ways.

Musically, this song lands in a category I would call “Irish Hymns”. There's something so lovely about Irish style hymns such as “Be Thou My Vision”, “What Wondrous Love is This” and “Come Thou Fount”. Part of this melody, was inspired by a short little scene in the classic Christmas movie “A Christmas Carol” featuring Alistair Sim. In this movie, after his night of nightmares, he goes to his nephew's home to apologize. As he comes in, there's a guy singing an Irish love song and that little melody stuck in my head. It's where the melody of the line “And we all sing Hallelujah” comes from.

How great it would be if a common theme in songs we sang in churches was Biblical unity – within our congregation and between congregations!

You can click on this link to hear this song on YouTube [We All Sing Hallelujah - by Heart of the City - YouTube](#) This song is recorded on our Heart of the City “Listen to the Sound” CD. If you don't have this CD already, you can order it or download it at www.danandsandyadler.com/musicstore

We All Sing Hallelujah Words and Music by Dan Adler

1. You have gathered us to become as one
And to work together to serve the Son
So the world will know You are Lord of all
As we all sing Hallelujah

CHORUS: Hallelujah to the spotless Lamb
Hallelujah to the Great I Am
From each tribe and tongue, we join as one
As we all sing Hallelujah

1. What a blessed gift to be reconciled
Unto You, our God, and be called His child
And to reconcile to each other too
As we all sing Hallelujah! (to CHORUS)

2. And the day will come when we see Your face
And our sorrows here will be all erased
And with every creature we'll bless Your name
As we all sing Hallelujah! (to CHORUS)

TAG: Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelu!
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