(Topics, Lead-in, and Lead-in Devotional Reading below)

Lift Up Jesus



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

LIFT UP JESUS 4.4.7.4.7.7.9.

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LEAD-IN: May the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7, NASB)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Lift Up Jesus

As a hymn writer and serious Bible student, I have strong opinions about theology – and sometimes, about politics. So I have long waited for God to send me out as a fierce warrior on my mighty steed, sword in hand, doing battle against all that is false that is, against all those who disagree with me. He never has. In fact He has made it clear that it is NOT my job to straighten out all that is false in the Church, much less in the world. Instead, God has given me this calling: to lift up Jesus Christ so that all can find the truth in Him. Can you imagine how ignorant even the wisest of us appears to our all-knowing Father? By our very nature, we are all small, brief, narrow-minded, and in some ways, still self-centered. Our perspective is the size of a pin-hole. We are so thoroughly unknowing about so very much. If God couldn't be patient with our ignorance, He'd have nothing to do with any of us. So realize that the "ignorant" ones are not THEM. but US -ALL of us. Therefore, accept one another,

just as Christ also accepted us, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7, NASB) In these divisive days, God has challenged me to be more broad-minded, both with those more conservative than me and those more liberal. I have begun to realize that God is delighted with the beautiful variety of His children. That variety is a testimony to His all-ness. And He wants me to share in His delight.

So join me. Pray that our words, actions, and attitudes testify to the breadth of His love.

And let us all join with those who think differently than us and focus together on this common goal:

> Lift up Jesus Christ.

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