

Above all

*One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
Ephesians 4:6*

The admonitions for the unity of the church in this chapter include this statement describing a combination of relationships between God the Father and the body of Christ. He is first the only true God recognized by all those who are His children by faith in Christ Jesus. The common bond of all true Christians is that we have all bowed in heart, mind, and spirit to the one and only God of all creation, who has every right to condemn us forever for our sin and rebellion against His perfect character and revealed law, yet has provided the free gift of salvation by taking on flesh and providing the perfect sacrifice once for all to redeem us to Himself. In Christ He then demonstrated that power to redeem as He rose and ascended back to that place above all. Though He is above all in holiness, righteousness, and power, His love for mankind, whom He created in His own image, extended His grace to adopt us into His eternal kingdom through faith, that we might know Him, the only true God, as our own Father.

As Jesus promised the disciples in John 14:23, the transcendent God and Father has come with the Son through the Spirit to make His abode in each and every believer. Not one is left out. Then by His unifying power He manifests His grace through all, according to the measure of the gift of Christ in each of us, by uniting us for the service of the kingdom. As we each do our part in working out His grace and power through the exercise of His gifts, for the repair of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the building of the church of the firstborn, we exalt Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power working in us, to manifest His glory in the church by Christ Jesus. What wondrous power is this, that, as He remains above all, He condescends to demonstrate that glory in His own below. Such is the purpose of His grace.