

## **A Testament of Devotion**

### **The Blessed Community**

1. When we are drowned in the overwhelming seas of the love of God, we find ourselves in a new and particular relation to a few of our fellows...The word Fellowship is discovered but...is thin in comparison. (page 51)
2. A whole new alignment of our personal relations appears. Some...whom we have never known before or...noticed only as dim background for our more special friendships, suddenly loom large, step forward in our attention as men and women whom we know to the depths. (page 51-52)
3. The sharing of physical goods in the primitive church is only an outcropping of a profoundly deeper sharing of a Life, the...center of which is obscured to those who are still oriented about self, rather than about God. The very existence of such a Fellowship within a common Life and Love is unknown and unguessed. In its place, psychological and humanistic views of humankind seek to provide a social theory of church membership. From these views spring church programs of mere sociability and social contacts...*Fellowship* becomes identified with a purely horizontal relationship of person to person, not with a horizontal-vertical relationship of person to person *in* God. (page 53-54)
4. The disclosure of God normally brings the disclosure of Fellowship. We don't create it deliberately, we find it and we find ourselves increasingly with it as we find ourselves increasingly within the Spirit. (page 54)
5. In wonder and awe we find ourselves already interknit within unofficial groups of kindred souls...In the Fellowship cultural and educational and national and racial differences are leveled...We overleap the boundaries of church membership and find Lutherans and Roman Catholics, Jews and Christians, within the Fellowship. (page 55)
6. The final grounds of holy Fellowship are in the Divine. Lives immersed and drowned in God are drowned in love, and know one another in Spirit, and know one another in love...They go back to a single Center where they are at home with God and with one another. It is as if every soul had a final base, and that final base of every soul is one single Holy Ground, shared in by all. (page 56)
7. The relation of each to all, through God, is real, objective, existential. It is an eternal relationship which is shared in by every stick and stone and bird and beast and saint and sinner of the universe. (page 56)
8. The man and woman who...yield to the loving urgency of that Life which knocks at their hearts, are entered and possessed and transformed and transfigured. (page 56-57)
9. Two people, three people, ten people may be in living touch with one another through the Divine who underlies their separate lives...We know that these souls are with us, lifting their lives and ours continuously to God and opening themselves, with us, in steady and humble obedience to the Spirit...Their strength given to them by God becomes our strength, and our joy, given to us by the Divine, becomes their joy. In confidence and love we live together in God. (page 59)

*A Testament of Devotion was written in 1941 and reflects the language and culture of that time. Some of the text in these excerpts has been altered in order to be more inclusive and reflective of today's sensitivities.*

10. We...can send out Eternal Love in silent, searching hope, and meet each person with a background of eternal expectation and a silent, wordless prayer of love. For until the life of everyone in time is, in every relation, shot through with Eternity, the Blessed Community is not complete. (page 61)