



**FEDERATION OF IKUN-EKITI
DESCENDANTS UNION OVERSEAS, INC.**
1294 HERKIMER STREET
BROOKLYN • NEW YORK 11233 • U.S.A.
TEL/FAX: (718) 342-9366
E-Mail: info@fiduo.net
Website: www.fiduo.net

PRESS RELEASE

A WORD OF EXHORTATION BY REV. CANON MATTHEW OLUFEMI OLAJIDE TO THE SPECIAL FIDUO GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Topic: True Love and Forgiveness

Text: Colossians 3:12-14

Dear Fellow Compatriots,

I thank the leadership of our great association for giving me the privilege to address this special meeting today. At a time like this in the history of our community, I feel greatly humbled and honored to speak on the subject of “True Love and Forgiveness.”

The scripture says: “Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony” (Colossians 3:12-14).

The two operating words “Love” and “Forgiveness” are interrelated such that one cannot do without the other and when we have true love it will be very easy to forgive whoever has offended us. Let us look at how Paul describes true love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.”

In forgiving, we do not only give up the claims we have over our offenders but also sacrifice our own interest in the process of bringing healing to our offenders and in God we see the fullness of forgiving love. Although God is the king of the Universe and infinite in power, He humbled Himself to become a mere human being in the person of Jesus. In doing this, He surrendered His will by subjecting Himself to human conditions of a sinful world. Furthermore, although we offered Him no love, betrayed Him, were unfaithful to Him and hurt Him by our sins, He sacrificed His life while suffering the most brutal torture, in order to free us from sin. In other words, He, the victim compensated for the hurt we caused Him by sacrificing His own life. In doing this, He stayed faithful to His covenant and showed us what true love is. If we want to truly follow Him, we must love one another the way God loved us and willing to give up the claims we have over those who have hurt us and sacrifice our own interest in the process of reconciliation. Jesus says in Matthew 6:15 that “if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

My dear people, what we need at this trying time in our community are true love and forgiveness for the interest of our community. We are bound to disagree but the interest of our community must supersede

our personal interests. On this note, I plead with you all to let go our personal interests and work together to support our new king so we can receive all the benefits due to us as a community from the local, state and federal governments. It's time for us to begin to explore how we can use our network of contacts with the executive and legislative arms of government to bring rapid development to our community. It's time for us to begin to reap the dividends of democracy like other communities around us. I also appeal to those who want to go to court to challenge the state government on the concluded Obaship selection process to please embrace dialogue and peaceful resolution in the interest of our community.

May the peace of the Lord that surpasses understanding abide with us and may God bless Ikun community in Jesus name.

Released by:

Rev. Canon. Matthew Olufemi Olajide

FIDUO PRO

Ontario, Canada