

1 Corinthians 13

When I finished officiating at the Arndt/Beyer Wedding someone came up to me and said, "Well, Pastor Stephanie, did you tie a good knot today?" Well I've thought about that a bit and today I'm going to TIE THE KNOT:

This red piece of rope will represent JESUS and the blue piece of rope will represent each one of us as CHRISTIAN people. The JESUS rope represents all that Jesus is – Savior, Shepherd, King, etc... and the CHRISTIAN rope represents what each of us brings to this time and place....NOW, I'm going to tie these two pieces of rope together – Note that NOTHING changes about them individually – what does change is now they are dependent on one another! (Helper comes forward to hold the Christian end of the rope) From now on whatever affects one piece of rope affects the other – for instance – if Jesus says, FOLLOW ME, the Christian end of the rope now follows. If Jesus says be lifted up – and I raise the Jesus rope – the Christian Rope follows...etc

Under normal circumstances these ropes will NOT come apart – but let's suppose that some extraordinary tension is placed upon these ropes – (loss of a job, home, illness, death) often we want to slip the knot and go it alone and blame Jesus for the tensions, but if we pull on these ropes we discover that the KNOT becomes tighter and tighter and tighter...Jesus Christ will help us through the tension – he will encourage us, walk beside us, sometimes even carry us as we struggle.

And today, my friends, this knot represents GOD – for God is the very power and strength and love that helps us stay tied to Jesus Christ...As 1Corinthians says, "Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things – LOVE NEVER ENDS!" When we make a commitment to stay tied to Jesus Christ, we then need to act on that commitment and share God's love with others.

This am I have some ropes for you – tied in knots – if each of you will take one of those and please stand...

This am I want you to Re-commit yourself to being tied to Jesus Christ and sharing God's love with others. I will ask you 6 questions – your response to each questions is simply, I DO!

1. Do you desire to be TIED together to Jesus Christ and follow his commandments? I DO

2. Do you promise to cling to Jesus Christ through all the ups and downs of your life and not slip the Knot? I DO
3. With God's help, do you promise to live out the covenant of your baptism in word and deed? I DO
4. With God's help, do you promise to continue to seek Jesus Christ in all people and love your neighbor as yourself? I DO
5. Do you promise to live the Good News, and work and pray for justice and peace? I DO
6. Do you promise to love others as Jesus Christ has loved you? I DO

By the power vested in me, I now pronounce you re-committed to being tied to Jesus Christ! Amen!