

Join The Song; Revelation 14:1-3

I. Need

- A. We all have a need for community — we want to belong
- B. The truth is, we were created with a desire to belong — to be reunited with our creator
- C. We often fill that desire with other things
- D. Some of us use book clubs, Lion's club, addiction, etc. depending on what we like
- E. God offers us entrance into a community filled with love, mercy, and forgiveness
- F. He wants us to "join the song"

II. Community

- A. Revelation 14:1 (ESV); Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads.
- B. Community — a unified body of individuals such as a group of people with common characteristics or interests living together within a larger society — Merriam Webster's
 1. We divide ourselves using a lot of different criteria
 2. New Braunfels, Texas is a city where people of German descent settled in a community
 - a) "Original 1800s German buildings like Gruene Hall are preserved in the Gruene Historic District." Google
 - b) "The name Schlitterbahn is a combination of the German words "schlitter," meaning "slippery," AND "bahn," meaning "road," and was intended as a nod to the German heritage of its host city New Braunfels." Google
 3. Walk into any McDonalds in the morning and you will see a group of people gathered together drinking coffee
- C. The church is a community — a unified body living within a larger group
- D. Our community is known by our leader — "144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads"
 1. No, not literally written on our foreheads, but plain to see
 2. When people see our behavior and they talk to us, our christianity ought to be plain to see
 3. It should not take anyone very long to figure out who we belong to — that is "written on their foreheads"
 4. It is a sad testimony to any Christian's life for someone to say, "oh, I didn't know they were a Christian"
 5. Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV); ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 6. Christians have a set of beliefs that are at odds with the rest of the world
 7. 1 Corinthians 1:23–25 (ESV); ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
 8. There should be a marked difference between those who live by the world's standards and those who live by God's standards — and it should be written on our foreheads, plain to see

III. The New Song

- A. Revelation 14:2–3 (ESV); ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.
- B. Our community is a gated community — only those who have the Son's and the Father's name can be part of this community (can learn the song)
- C. I am not talking about some new song that we are going to learn

1. Some people have a hard time singing
 2. Some people don't enjoy singing
 3. I think there will be plenty of singing in heaven
 4. I think that the new song is a song as well as an allusion to the new covenant and our salvation
 5. "these (who) follow the Lamb wherever He goes" verse 4
 6. "These have been redeemed from mankind" verse 4
 7. "They are blameless" verse 5
- D. Only those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them are part of our community
 - E. Romans 8:9 (ESV); ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
 - F. Those who follow Jesus "wherever He goes" have been united in His death, burial, and resurrection
 - G. They have been added to the Body of Christ (God has added them)
 - H. Only those who have learned the "new song"
- IV. Join the Song!
- A. This is an invitation for us to be redeemed
 - B. It's an open invitation, all are welcome, this is right where you belong!
 - C. For the thirsty, there's a river, for the broken, there's a healer
 - D. He's been waiting all along
 - E. Join the song!