

## Knowledge of God

Knowing of God we have together...

What else when  
God is love  
One Father delighting in his Son—the crucified  
And pouring out for him  
A blessing on the world  
And we, endowed in him  
His Brothers, Bride and Body  
Receiving in our flesh  
His Spirit.

What else when, together, we are  
Sealed by Christ, our Brother  
Who does not think our faults  
A blemish on the relationship  
But bound them to himself  
To awful death  
And rose with peace for us to share  
As family.

What else when  
All of us have  
Died one death  
Live in Christ one life before the Father  
Understand together the shedding of false glory  
The bonding of a single trust  
One heart to cry 'You know I love you!'  
And one hope that Christ may take his glory  
One Spirit in us crying  
'Father!'  
With all the dignity and passion Jesus brought to that cry  
Union beyond describing  
One cry—demanding not just access but for  
The covenant to be fulfilled  
When all the nations own one Lord  
Our hearts all focused  
In the love of him  
One cry—with Christ—of 'Abba' on our lips  
Annulling all the usual cut and thrust  
Of anxious self protection  
One Man's pain  
Sufficing

For all our sins against each other  
One Man's virtue  
Sufficient  
To give dignity to all.

What else when  
Every breath of love and faith and hope  
Are shared  
When gifts to others are servant to our lack  
And gifts to each hang listless 'til they centre on another.

(Yet here is  
Cause for lasting shame  
When what we'd known of him seemed lost in  
Fretfulness  
Competition with each other for a nameless prize  
Resentment of improvement in the other  
Arrogant supposing that our life should be convenient  
And our peers already perfected  
So pushing to the perimeter all the joy we had  
Suggesting to our minds that joy of grace  
Was transitory.

And yet again  
Grace floods our arid self  
This exposé of us  
A part of grace—to show that  
Never did we have a righteousness our own  
That all is owed to Christ  
That he alone has rights his own before the Father  
Our sideways glances we have learned to put away  
For fear of not being found in him  
Choice of love to be at one with him  
In love of one-another  
Looking now at others as more worthy of his love  
Than us.)

No closeness like this bond  
No knowledge of the Father so rich as when it's known  
Together  
(Our present life all hid in Christ)  
True tribute to the Father that his love has made us  
One.

*Grant Thorpe; 1991*