

## Pentecost, Pride & Prince – Spirit Sunday – Love Thy Will Be Done

1 Corinthian 12:12-26

**Overview** - Last Sunday we began our celebration of Pentecost. After Easter I would argue that this is the most important period in the Christian calendar. It is during this time that we celebrate the contribution of the Holy Spirit and the way her power leads to the formation of the early church. I believe that it is a Holy Spirit happening that Pride month always overlaps with Pentecost season, as an invitation to the church to get out of its narrow boxes.

Our theme song for the month is - **Love Thy Will Be Done** written by Prince and first released by Martika

### Exegesis –

- I would argue that in many ways the life, music and career are a powerful reflection of the move of the Holy Spirit and that this song is just one of many that really reflects the depth of this theology and vision for the world.
- This is not one of his better-known songs because he wrote it for the artist Martika. It was a collaboration in which she came to Paisley Park with her lyric book. This particular song was a prayer that she wrote with parts of his words and thinking woven into the song.

### Key Points

1. **The work we do for God must always begin and end with love.**
2. **The work of love requires surrender to the move of the Spirit**
3. **The work of love is hard because it requires us to strive for the divine - Jubilee**
  - a. **in how we see others and ourselves**
  - b. **in how we move in the world**

The work is not just individual but collective. This was something that Prince did amazingly when he brought musicians together but also something that he struggled with as a relatively introverted and sometimes distant person.

### Reflections Questions

1. What relationships of love in your life are manifestations of the work of God? Where have you seen progress do to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Where do you need more Spirit to bring love into your life?
2. Cornell West said – “Justice is what love looks like in public? Think about a place of deep injustice that you are familiar with – imagine it being transformed into a reflection of love. Illustrate it as you are led.
3. Take a moment to reflect on Mel King’s statement – Love is the question and the answer.” What does that mean for you right now? What might it mean for the New Roots community right now?