

Hymns' 18.6.8 **AS ONE BENEATH THE CROSS**

"...that they may be one.' John 17:11

Good friends among God's children seem ready to divide
the living, holy Body, for which our Savior died.

We hold to deep convictions based on our common Word,
while talking past each other, and truth then goes unheard.

For some things need conserving, but others, liberty.

Christ Jesus showed that balance which makes us truly free:
upholding God's commandments, while off'ring boundless grace,
and sharing in our suff'ring to save the human race.

Imagine Jesus hanging, outstretched upon that hill,
while we cling to positions, and set aside goodwill.

But Jesus says: "I love you! Division is your loss!

Come, stand beside each other, as one beneath my cross."

Our common love for children, our wonder at God's world,
our caring acts for justice, though hateful threats are hurled,
our love for Church and Scripture, and joyful songs of praise,
reveal the Spirit's leading, uniting us, always.

Words: R. Frederick Crider ©2018 www.fredshymns.com John 17 NRSV AURELIA

Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1864 76.76.D (cf. **"The Church's One Foundation #545 UMH)**

