

John 17:20-23
A Prayer For Unity
(pt. 1)

INTRO: Jesus prays for His people's spiritual protection, purity, and unity.

Why is the unity of the Church so important? How is it related to evangelism?

John 17:20-23 Sermon Outline

- 1) The _____ of Jesus' Unity Petition.

Three Ways Christians Undermine their Spiritual Unity in Christ

1) _____.

2) _____.

3) _____.

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be doers of the Word and not just hearers!*

What is the most important thing you heard today? What do you want to study further as a result of today's message?

Read Psalm 133; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Romans 12:18; and John 17:20-26.

In the third and final section of John 17 Jesus prays directly for His future disciples.

According to Jesus' prayer in John 17, what's the essence of true (Christian/biblical) unity?

"The mission of the church is a unity that shares the unity of God and exemplifies its beauty to the world." Dr. Klink.

The unity of the church is not an end in and of itself. How is true (Christian) unity related to biblical evangelism? A divided world needs a spiritually united witness. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Jesus' prayer petitions assume that believers will in fact "be IN the world but not OF the world." Explain.

What does the Bible teach concerning unity without truth or unity at the expense of truth? J.C. Ryle, "Unity without the gospel is a worthless unity; it is the very unity of hell."

What are some ways Christians might undermine or contradict our spiritual unity in Christ? What three examples were listed in today's sermon exposition?

What hymns or praise songs relate to today's sermon text (John 17:20f)? Email Pastor Caleb your list.

Select quotes on Christian unity: Pastor Richard Baxter, "The differences among Christians are nothing in comparison of the differences among heathens." "Believers are one in Christ and are expected to act like it." Joni Eareckson Tada. "If Christ is not ashamed to indwell them, I will not be slow to embrace them." Sinclair Ferguson- speaking about embracing Spirit-filled saints. "In essential unity; in nonessentials liberty; in all this charity." Quote attributed to many believers. "When the Gospel enables us to live in love, even though we may have nothing else in common save Christ, it is a testimony to its power to transform a group of sinful, self-centered people into a loving community united by a common relationship with Jesus Christ." Paul Alexander. "We cannot expect the world to believe the Father sent the Son, that Jesus' claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians." Francis Schaeffer reflecting on John 13. "The unity of the church is to be a reflection of the unity of the one God upon which the church is built. As God is perfectly unified within Himself and we are marvelously unified in Him and with each other in Christ, the true church should model that oneness in all our actions. Church unity flows from the fact that we are bound to God and to one another by Christ and the Gospel." R. Smith.

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