

## Trinity 17

- I. Session 22: Implications #4: Unity in light of the One and the Many
- a. Purpose: We shall now see how understanding the relationship among the members of the Trinity has social implications of godly unity.
  - b. The Problem: The One or the Many?
    - i. Problem stated: Is society more important or is it the individual? This has been an issue in the history of philosophy and political thought.
    - ii. When Diversity over Unity is the Idol
      1. Imbalance individualism: When diversity and the individual is stressed so much it becomes a division.
      2. Anarchy: Everyone is free from any overarching rule from society, state, etc.
    - iii. When Unity over Diversity is the Idol
      1. Collectivism: When society matters more than individuals and trumps individual rights.
      2. Imperialism: When the need for unity is so strong it demands uniformity instead of diversity and aims to expand this vision.
  - c. The unity of the Father and Son is the template for Christian unity (**John 17:20-26**)
    - i. The relationship of the Father and Son described
      1. **How many times do we see that Jesus says the Father loves the Son?**  
Three times (**v.23, 24, 26**)
      2. The Father and Son inter-dwell with one another
        - a. *“even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You”*(**v.21a**)
        - b. *“just as We are one”*(**v.22b**)
        - c. *“You in Me ”*(**v.23a**)
    - ii. Jesus states that this should have implication towards Christian unity as indicated by the use of the terms of comparison such as “even, as”
      1. *“that they may all be one; **even as** You, Father, are in Me and I in You”* (**v.21a**)
      2. *“that they may be one, just **as** We are one”*(**v.22b**)
      3. *“I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity”*(**v.23a**)
    - iii. There is an evangelistic purpose:
      1. *“so that the world may [a]believe that You sent Me.”*(**v.21b**)
      2. *“so that the world may [c]know that You sent Me”*(**v.23b**)
  - d. How is this unity possible?
    - i. Jesus prayed for us as His disciples: *“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one”* (**John 16:8**)
      1. Jesus is praying to the Father.
      2. If He’s praying to the Father then it must mean the Father also has a role in making us united.
    - ii. Our union with Christ: “Jesus does not simply say; ‘May they be like us.’ He says: ‘May they also be in us’”<sup>1</sup> (**v.21, 26**)  
Review John 15 as how this union with Christ (abiding in Christ) is the basis for Christians to bear fruit and be empowered for Christian life.

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<sup>1</sup> Tim Chester, *Delighting in the Trinity* (Purcellville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2010), 163.

- iii. The other reason why this is possible is because of the Work of the Spirit bearing fruits of the Spirits that is necessary for true Christian unity to occur among individuals.
- iv. Note the above three points involved the members of the Trinity working to bring about unity among believers!
- v. Notice that among the Trinity persons are defined in relations and not in opposition to other persons. That means we as Christians must identify our persons in relations to other person rather than being against them.