

That We Be One and See His Glory

John 17:20-26 ²⁰“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

❖ Recap

- Jesus has Prayed For Himself
- Jesus has prayed for His followers
 - And I believe we see a number of things that He prays for them as applying directly to us

❖ Intro

- **Why Should You Listen Today?** – (what else is there to do, right? You can sleep or daydream at Home)
 - **1) Obviously... Because Jesus is praying for You...**
 - **2) Specifically He prays One thing... just one thing for you while You live on this earth...**
 - So many of us are so concerned with Finding the will of God for our life...
 - Yet... if we look no further than the prayer of Jesus we see His desire for His followers
 - **3) Today you still have some time left.**
 - You have time to impact the world.
 - Many of us have been in a sort of neutral for a long time now...
 - We may have done a few good things for the Lord, but overall we have been lacking...
 - There are thousands of people in our community that would die and go straight to hell unless we reach them...
 - I believe if you listen closely to what Jesus is praying about, your outlook on your life will change.
- **Outline for Today:**
 - 1) Jesus Knows Who You Are!
 - 2) Jesus Prays for Our Unity
 - 3) Jesus Prays For Us to Be With Him
- **You Should take notes...**
 - There are a few sub points coming from the first two that are so important...
 - You can use community group questions
 - I am not trying to sound harsh... I really am not...
 - But I think it is sad of us that from week to week we can barely recall what is being said in the sermon...
 - Maybe that is a reflection on me... So I will try to do better... But this is God’s word friends...
 - And we should never take it lightly... It deserves more than our half hearted attempt to listen...

❖ 1) Jesus Knows Who You Are! (

- “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
- *For those who believe in me through their word....*
- **Jesus saw You then and Jesus sees you now...**
 - You have been noticed by the God of all creation...!
 - Scary and Exciting all at the same time...
 - **Imagine: The Most Important being in the universe knows You**
 - Knows your favorite foods...
 - Your favorite people... and least favorite
 - Knows your struggles and weaknesses...
 - And loves you anyway...
 - And prays for you
- **There is a King who knows You...**
 - *Matthew 25:34* ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.
 -
 - *Ephesians 1:4* ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love
 -
- **The Far Reaching Effect of the disciples faithfulness to spread the gospel and see it spread**
 - So... this should really hit home for us today...
 - They left a legacy of followers... they left a legacy of people to carry on what they were doing...
 - The apostles took what they heard from Jesus... and they shared it with countless others...
 - They trained people up to do the same thing they were doing
 - And now today... You and I have heard and many in here have believed and followed Jesus
 - And therefore have received eternal Life...!
- **Illustration of Alexander the Great**
 - What a great conqueror He was...
 - Yet He left no legacy...
 - His kingdom was divided between His four generals...
 - And what began as a great kingdom unifying the world... ended in the division of His Empire
- **John sums it up in his first epistle...**
 - *1 John 1:1-3* ¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.
 - Can’t you see the thoughtfulness... the plan... the purposeful spreading of Jesus’ Message
 - John says... we heard it... we saw it with our own eyes... we touched Him with our hands
 - **This Word of Life...**
 - It was shown to us.... We saw it...
 - And now we testify... we proclaim to you eternal life...

- What we have seen and heard... We now proclaim to you... our hearers and readers..
- All in an effort to bring you into fellowship with us...
- Because our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ...
- AMEN!
- **#1 Consider how special you are this morning... To be known by Jesus...**
 - Wow... what a privilege to be known by God...
- **#2 Ask yourself if you are taking any actual steps to carry on what the disciples did...**
 - Or will you leave little to know legacy in the kingdom of God
 - This should cause you great concern this morning...
 - **In the real world... Hard Workers are rewarded for their efforts...**
 - They get the good jobs... and it pays off...
 - From time to time you will have a guy on the job that doesn't pull His weight...
 - He is content to collect a paycheck while others work their tails off...
 - He just barely gets by and others work extra because of Him... (ever known someone like this?)
 - **We can't stand that guy can we?**
 - We think we should work hard and get the job done...
 - Let's apply that to what truly matters... God's purpose for your life
 - **Are you one of those people that are content with others doing all the work...**
 - Maybe you are a very hard worker in earthly things...
 - But in godly things you have been lazy... You are unprepared and Untrained...
 - And you sit back while others do the heavy lifting...
 - Shame on us when we are like this...
 - **What are we going to do to change this?**
 - ◆ Don't let tomorrow come without writing down some ways to grow
 - ◆ Put it to paper and follow it

❖ 2) Jesus Prays for Our Unity (

- So... We are going to see two main things here...
- 1) Why our unity is so important
- 2) What He means when He says He wants us to be one...
- ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.
- **Jesus Prays ONE thing for us while we are to live on this earth... One thing...**
 - So... it must be important... right?
- **That they may All be one...**
 - He prays this a couple times...
 - All be one... also may be in us... that they may be one... become perfectly one...
- **This is Really Really Important.... Before I tell you what he is talking about (if I can)...**
 - Let me tell you why it is so important...

- Jesus says it right here...
- **1) Purpose of Unity: Saving the Lost... Let that sink in...**
 - He says... let them be one... SO THAT...
 - The World may believe you sent me...
 - Then He says it again... that they may become perfectly one...
 - So that the world may know that you sent me
- **Clearly He wants the people of the World to turn from their rebellion in sin, and receive Him...**
 - This has been his purpose the whole time...
 - Luke 19:10¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
 - **Jesus came for this reason... And He has left this task to the church... To Us...**
 - He just told the disciples:
 - ♦ John 17:18 “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world”
- **Reaching Hurting and Lost People... (that we care for...) Depends on our Unity**
 - I can remember back to when I have been in a church that had no unity...
 - Instead of doing the work of the church... they were in the work of quarrel...
 - They dismissed a deacon for being unbiblical and many unspiritual people
 - Cause a lot of chaos in the church...
 - They did not come until the church tried to call a Pastor... Then they would come and vote no
 - And there was chaos in that church for years...
 - While the real work of the church was left undone...
- **I can remember disunity in this church some time back...**
 - Some of you may remember this... I hesitate to bring it up again...
 - But it is a powerful reminder... a great lesson in our history...
 - To be careful that we never get there again...
 - The disunity brought discord in the church... And it took years to recover...
 - During this time... the real work of the church of reaching out to the lost we knew
 - Went undone...
 - A church in discord is no church to bring an unbeliever to is it?
 - Praise God that He has brought us through that dark time to a wonderful fellowship...
- **2) So... what does He mean by this? And how can we achieve it...**
 - If the souls of mankind depend on our unity... it must be really important...
- **A quick Summary of what He means...**
 - then I will tell you how I came to this conclusion
 - Then I will summarize it again
 - **Being One means...**
 - 1) In its greatest form... It is the same unity as the Father and Son Have
 - 2) Jesus is our Great Example... Being Christ-like is being one with each other
 - 3) God Dwelling in Us as the Holy Spirit is the means of our transformation to oneness
- **Jesus says He wants us to be one...**
 - Then He explains it this way... He gives us **three** details about this unity
- **1) In its greatest form... It is the same unity as the Father and Son Have**

- 1) ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us
 - So... Jesus says here... In the same way that they are one...
 - ◆ He wants His followers (Us) to be one...
 - ◆ He wants us to be in them...
 - **How are they one?**
 - ◆ They are of the same essence... same being... same power
 - ◆ They are of one mind and purpose in all things... even the Death of Jesus is in harmony
 - ◆ They are in total agreement... They exist from eternity in perfect community
 - **I believe there is a sense to which we will struggle to live up to this type of unity**
 - ◆ I think this is painfully obvious from the history of the church...
 - ◆ This does not keep Jesus from praying for it...
 - ◆ It is His desire...
 - ◆ In the same way He desires that all be saved...
 - ◆ He desires that His followers be one as He and the Father are One...
 - **Now... I do know that this will one day happen for the followers of Jesus...**
 - ◆ We will progress on this earth, and one day we will be unified completely with
 - ◆ Believers of all times and all places...
 - Ephesians 1:10 ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
 - **And we can experience this to a great degree while on this earth...**
 - ◆ **And I believe it depends upon our own faithfulness and selflessness and humility...**
 - And remember... the lost depend on our unity...
 - John 13:35 ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - ◆ **As we get to the next point... You will see how it is possible for us...**
 - We must be purposeful about Unity...
 - He has given us all we need for unity... When we are not unified... it is our fault...
 - God allows us such great freedom to follow Him...
 - He does not make us a puppet, yet fully enables us to walk in obedience...
 - So let's be purposeful about unity...

➤ 2) Jesus is our Great Example.... Being Christ-like is being one with each other

- 2) ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one
 - The glory you have given me I have given them...
 - ◆ **What does He mean by this... Well... Ask the question... what had He given them... ?**
 - And I think what is He going to give them is another important question...
 - Because Jesus often speaks of future things as if they have already happened...
 - Because to Him... they already have...
 - **He has given them the glory that was given to Him...**

- ◆ (look back in ch 17 at what he says He has given them)
 - ◆ Vs 8 “for I have given them the words that you have given me”
 - ◆ Vs 14 “I have given them your word”
 - **Also... He was going to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in them**
 - ◆ And the Holy Spirit was the Glory of God resting within the person of Jesus
 - ◆ And the giving of the Spirit was going to enable them to walk in unity... (more later)
 - **The Word of God**
 - **Was given to the disciples in two ways...**
 - ◆ 1) By Jesus teaching them the truth about God
 - ◆ 2) By Jesus living out the character and nature of God before them...
 - And it is in those ways that **the Glory of God was displayed** through Jesus...
 - **Therefore:**
 - The closer we walk in unison to the teachings of Jesus...
 - In what we believe... And especially in how we live...
 - We therefore will walk in unity...
 - **Practical Summary of what this looks like:**
 - Jesus says this:
 - ◆ John 15:12 ¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another **as I have** loved you.
 - Peter teaches us:
 - ◆ 1 Peter 4:8 ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.
 - **To Walk in Unity it is important that we agree:**
 - On the fundamental truths of the scriptures...
 - There SHOULD NOT be a great divide in our doctrine...
 - We should also walk in a godly way, therefore producing unity by our lifestyle...
 - And people will come to know God through this as Jesus says...
 - ◆ Matthew 5:16 ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - **Application:**
 - Look to Jesus... Look to Jesus
 - When you do... You will see how to live, and what to believe...
 - If I wanted all of you to repeat a painting I painted... Would I:
 - ◆ Give the painting to one person and let him draw it, then give his drawing to the next person...
 - ◆ And on and on...
 - Or would I give the original to all of you and ask you to mimic it...
 - ◆ We would look at the original...
 - Let us look to the original...
- **3) God Dwelling in Us as the Holy Spirit is the means of our transformation to oneness**
- 3) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one,

- **What we see here is, I believe, the fact that God will dwell in us through the Holy Spirit...**
 - Remember what Jesus told the disciples?
 - ◆ John 14:18¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
 - ◆ And we know He is referring to dwelling in them through the Holy Spirit...
 - So Jesus is simply saying that The Father dwells in Him, and He will dwell in us...
 - ◆ Therefore, The Godhead will dwell within us...
- **That they may become perfectly one...**
 - May become... so we see there is progression from not being perfectly one...
 - ◆ To becoming perfectly one...
 - **The Spirit helps us progress in our walk... He is conforming us..**
 - ◆ Romans 8:29²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son....
 - **He will present us Holy**
 - ◆ Colossians 1:22²² ... in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
- **Therefore:**
 - It is through the indwelling of God, that the believer can begin to walk in unity...
 - To grow and progress in unity...
 - God comes into us and makes His home within us... giving us a new nature...
 - This is a work that can only be done by the power of God...
- **Important Note:**
 - We can not walk in unity unless God enables us to do so...
 - I said earlier that our unity depends on us...
 - And that is because I take for granted that you know God has first enabled you...
 - Now, you must take that enabling and live it out...
- **Look at Paul encouraging the unity of the body...** (we expound on this verse in Foundations – Unity)
 - Ephesians 4:1-3¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,² with all **humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience**, **bearing with one another** in love,³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - Look at the details...

❖ 3) Jesus Prays For Us to Be With Him (

- ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
- **This is Exciting... Jesus wants us to be where He is...**
 - To be with Him... He prays this...
- **I always like to have my friends...**
 - If I have something cool or new or whatever...
 - I like to share it with my friends...
- **Jesus is going to share His glory and His kingdom with His friends...**
 - Remember He tells them that they are His friends...
- **And You and I will get to experience the joy:**

- Of being with Jesus in HIS kingdom, and taking part of His glory...
- This is amazing...
- This is something to look forward to...
- **Can you look forward to being with God one day?**
 - Or are you unsure if He considers you one of His friends... one of His followers...

❖ **Jesus Finishes His Prayer**

- ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”
- **In conclusion Jesus simply repeats some important things He has already said....**
- **Jesus had been faithful... He had made known to the disciples**
 - The name of God... And He was going to continue to make it known...
 - And He would do this through the cross...
 - The greatest display of the character of God is seen by His mercy on the cross
 - As He took the wrath of God to pay for the sins of the people...
- **He does all this so that:**
 - The same love He has will be in His followers...
- **Do we love like this?**
 - Is this love in us?
 - Are we quick to forgive and be like Christ
 - Or do we hold grudges and are unable to forgive and treat people mercifully...
 - Shouldn't we all be quick to say..."If not for the grace of God..."

❖ **Remember:**

- **Jesus is praying specifically for us...**
 - We are special to Him...
 - The Faithfulness of the disciples to preach, led to our salvation
- **Jesus prays two things:**
 - For Our Unity
 - And that We will be Where He is...
- **In regards to our Oneness**
 - The Lost being saved is at stake
 - He wants us to be one like He and the Father are One
 - The More Christ-like we live, the more one we are with other believers
 - It is the Holy Spirit dwelling within us that enables us to be one

❖ **Invitation:**

- I think there have been a large number of practical every day ways of using these verses...
- I find them extremely convicting... and humbling
- Yet very uplifting and exciting...