

One (11/17/24)

Discussion Questions

Summary: At the end of his high priestly prayer in John 17 *Jesus prays for us*, for all believers who would come after his first followers. What did he pray for? Significantly, Jesus prayed for our unity. Just as he commanded his disciples to love one another, so he prayed that they would live out that love in practical expressions of unity. In this prayer we see the glorious cycle of transformation: 1) believe in Jesus; 2) receive His glory; 3) Live unified in Him; 4) Convince the world so that; 5) more believe in Jesus. Be encouraged and inspired as we come together in agreement with all for which Jesus prayed!

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 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." John 17:20-21

The Glorious Cycle of Transformation:

1. Believe in Jesus
 - a. Hear His Word (v. 20)
 - b. Know His Name (v. 26)
2. Receive His Glory
 - a. See His Perfection (v. 22, 24)
 - b. Experience His Love (v. 23-24, 26)
3. Live Unified in Him
 - a. As Father and Son are One (v. 21-22)
 - b. Now we are In Them (v. 21, 23, 26)
4. Convince the World
 - a. Our apologetic is Unity (v. 21-23)
 - b. Our message is Love (v. 23-24, 26)
5. So they Believe in Jesus

"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." John 17:26

Get Started:

1. What was your favorite team experience, whether a team you played on or cheered for, whether through sports or work or ministry...?
2. What made that experience so special for you? How important was a spirit of unity on the team?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read John 17:20-26. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. Remarkably, Jesus is praying for *us* here. What are His specific requests and desires for us?
5. What has Jesus given to us to help us pursue these desires and requests?
6. How does unity in the church enhance our outreach in the world? How does disunity detract from our outreach?
7. Why is love the natural conclusion of this prayer (v. 26)?

Move Forward:

8. How do you think we are doing at Oakwood in terms of living out this kind of unity? How could we do better?
9. How do you think we are doing in Tampa Bay in terms of the whole Church loving each other and reaching the city together? How could we do better?
10. A primary application as it relates to unity in our church and The Church is to pray. We can't do any better than Jesus' words. So let's read John 17:20-26 one more time and then have a few people pray these requests back to the Lord.