

JOHN 17:20-26

JESUS UNITES

Jesus' prayer now stretches beyond the room.

He looks ahead to all who will believe—including all future believers. And what does He ask for His people? "...that all of them may be one..." (17:21a).

This unity is not based on sameness or agreement alone. It is rooted in something deeper: the relationship between the Father and the Son. Just as the Father and Son are perfectly united, Jesus prays that His followers would share in that same oneness.

This unity matters. Jesus ties it directly to the mission of the Church: "...so that the world may believe" (17:21b). For the Church, life together becomes a living testimony to who He is. But this kind of unity is not something followers of Jesus create on our own. It flows from being connected to Jesus, sharing in His love, His life, and His glory.

On the night before the cross, the heart of Jesus is revealed: His desire for the glory of the Father, the faithfulness of His disciples, and the unity of all who would believe—held together by His love.

DAILY READINGS

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| I. JOHN 17:20-26 | V. JOHN 19:28-42 |
| II. JOHN 18:1-14 | VI. JOHN 20:1-31 |
| III. JOHN 18:15-40 | VII. JOHN 21:1-25 |
| IV. JOHN 19:1-27 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 17:20

JOHN 17:20-26

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

DISCUSSION

When have you experienced a deep sense of unity with other people? What were the circumstances that created that connection, and what made it feel genuine?

Read John 17:20-26 aloud.

Who is Jesus praying for in verse 20? What does this mean for us today? Do you see ways the Father is answering the prayers Jesus prays in verses 20-26?

How does our unity with one another—and with Christ—show the world that we belong to Him? What practical steps can we take to pursue deeper unity? What can make this kind of unity so difficult to maintain? How might we demonstrate this unity to a watching world?

How does Jesus continue to make the Father's love known (v. 26)? What are some ways we can show the love of the Father through Christ to people today?

Look back through your study guide. What verses, discussions, or moments over these 11 weeks were especially meaningful? What have you learned about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and yourself through this study? What do you think you will carry with you from “the last night with Jesus”?

Consider closing your time with prayers of thanksgiving, followed by taking communion together.



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