

The Gospel of
JOHN
"Come and See"

April 23, 2023
John 17:20-26
"The Unifier"

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.

John 17 : Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

- 1) God's glory (manifest in Jesus)
- 2) Our Identity and Calling
- 3) *Unity***

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.”

What Unity Is

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Congress Singing "God Bless America" hours after the 9/11 attack

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Diverse parts symbiotically knit together
by that which is ultimately important

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Unity is NOT Uniformity.

Unity is more beautiful when there are dramatic
differences, yet the parts work as a cohesive whole.

Bands

Teams

Family/Marriage?

Trinity God: 3 in 1



Believers With God



Believers With Each Other

Trinity God: 3 in 1

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Trinity God: 3 in 1

Peri-choresis
“To Dance Around”



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Trinity God: 3 in 1

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“To Dance Around”



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2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Believers With God

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...**”

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

Believers With God

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...**"

Identity

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...**"

Believers With God

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Identity

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...**"

Glory

²² The **glory** that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one

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Glory

²² The **glory** that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one

Love

so that the world may know that you sent me and **loved them even as you loved me.**

Believers With God

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Identity

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...**"

Glory

²² The **glory** that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one

Love

so that the world may know that you sent me and **loved them even as you loved me.**

Presence

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, **may be with me where I am,** to see my glory

Believers With Each Other

About 43,000 Christian Denominations Globally

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In Essentials Unity;
In Non-Essentials Liberty;
In All Things Charity

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Important \neq Essential

Non-Essential = topics that
don't prohibit union in Christ.

But what are the binding essentials?

All who are IN CHRIST...and Who Christ is IN.

Unity in Truth:

Truth is (and is found in) Jesus

The Gospel Playground

Romans 10

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

The Gospel Playground

Defining this core precisely might prove to be as difficult as living out the whole truth faithfully, but it will surely include that God, the creator of heaven and earth against whom we have all sinned, was in Christ, reconciling to Himself all who believe in Him, not counting their sins against them, but forgiving them through the redemption that is found in the sinless life and atoning death of Christ and received by faith alone, calling for obedience to Christ as Lord under the authority of His Word in the Holy Scriptures.

Mark Ross, Ligonier

The Gospel Playground

Non-Essentials

Baptism

Communion

Bible Version

Style of Worship

Spiritual Gifts

Role of Women

Having lots of different local churches and denominations isn't (necessarily) a bad thing...because all believers have theological convictions. Having multiple Jesus-Centered churches creates more doors for people to come to know Jesus and enables us to worship "in spirit and truth".

What Prevents Unity

It's really hard

Pride (lack of other-centered love)

What Prevents Unity

It's really hard

Pride (lack of other-centered love)

Boundaries that are too loose

It's meaningless and powerless.

There is nothing that ties you
together

Boundaries that are too tight

Majoring in the Minors.

Long list of "essentials" that are
actually peripheral

Ephesians 4

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

¹⁴ ***so that we may no longer*** be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is **the head, into Christ**, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in **LOVE**.

Pursuing Unity

Colossians 3:14

And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Philippians 2

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

“PERFECTLY ONE”

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

What Unity Creates

Blessing and Joy

17:13

that they may have
my joy fulfilled in
themselves.

Power

As a body, using our
different gifts and
roles toward one
great goal of God's
Glory

Magnetism

Evangelistic,
because this is
utterly counter
cultural...to not just
tolerate but love
those who are very
different yet in the
same family.

Open Invitation to Join the Unity

Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Apostles' Creed (2nd Century)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit;
Born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;
Was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into Hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven;
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Apostles' Creed (2nd Century)

I believe in the Holy Spirit;
The holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints;
The forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body;
And the life everlasting.
Amen

*that is, the true Christian church of all times and all places

Benediction

1 Corinthians 12:12–13

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.