
SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-23

SERIES: Ekklesia

TITLE: The Church and Unity

BIG IDEA: Unity in the church helps convince the world that Jesus is real.

SUMMARY:

In John 17:20-23, Jesus prays for all future believers, requesting they experience perfect spiritual unity, mirroring the oneness between Him and the Father. This unity serves as a powerful witness to the world of God's love and Jesus' divine mission.

TEXT:

John 17:20-23

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.

INTODUCTORY QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you from the passage?
 - How does this passage relate to your life circumstances?
 - What can we learn from this text and how can we apply it?
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1. Unity is Jesus' Prayer for Every believer. Vv. 20-21a

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,

- Is there anyone in my life right now that I am avoiding, harboring bitterness toward, or unwilling to reconcile with?
- Do I treat unity with other believers as a priority in my life—or as something optional when it's convenient?
- When conflict arises, do I move toward resolution or do I withdraw and let division grow?
- Am I praying for unity in my church and relationships the way Jesus did, or am I ignoring it altogether?

2. Our Unity reflects the Trinity. Vv. 21b-22

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,

- Are my relationships with other believers deep and Christ-centered, or mostly surface-level and casual?
- In moments of disagreement, am I more concerned with being right or being Christlike?
- How often do I intentionally humble myself, serve others, and put their needs before my own?
- Do I embrace differences within the body of Christ, or do I struggle to connect with those who aren't like me?

3. Our Unity is a Witness to the World. V. 23

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.

- What would a non-believer conclude about Jesus by observing how I treat other Christians?
- Do my words about other believers build them up or tear them down when they're not around?
- Am I contributing to a culture of unity and love in my church—or adding to division and negativity?
- Who in my life might be struggling to believe in Jesus because of what they've seen in Christians—and how can I be part of changing that?

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

- How does this passage point us to Christ?
- What does this passage teach us about the Gospel?
- What does this passage ask us to do?
- What do we need to pray for specifically in asking the Holy Spirit to apply these truths to our hearts and lives?
- How can we pray for each other?

NOTES: