

Unity of the Body 2019-12-08

John 17:20-24

"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.

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

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.

2 weeks ago preached on "In Jesus' name." In Chapter 17 perfect illustration in "High Priestly Prayer"

- 1-5: self, 6-19: 11 disciples, 20-26: all future Christians. John 17:20, Romans 10:17 Hebrews 7:25b
 - In a sense, every Christian believes through things apostles wrote in the New Testament.
 - Jesus prayed for us before born...then & now.

Overarching focus High Priestly Prayer is love Jesus has for His own/Christians & importance of unity (7x).

- Christian unity glorifies God and testifies to power of Gospel
- Jesus is not praying for unity among all religions. Galatians 1:6-9
- not unanimity (absolute agreement of thought/opinion).
 - Strive to love/accept all Christians but not compromise gospel or minimize ESSENTIAL (as defined by GOD) biblical truth.
- Not uniformity: conform in appearance, style, personality, practice.
 - unity best demonstrated in diversity, not uniformity. Analogy of body.
 - i.e. LEFC.....Not let diversity divide us!!!

2 kinds of unity: positional & practical. John 7:23, Ephesians 4:3-6, 11-13, 1 Corinthians 12:13

- Positional = unity of Holy Spirit... all believers "in" Jesus Christ.
 - On Pentecost, Holy Spirit united all Christians into 1 body of Jesus Christ.
 - Unity of Trinity example of unity among Christians thru union with Jesus.
 - "perfectly one" cause unity with Son, so 1 with the Father and each other.
- Practical = organic/functional unity...work in progress (sanctification)
 - Oneness of heart, faith, purpose through transforming work of Holy Spirit!
 - Fulfilling "one another's" by God's grace and power. Slide – see last page of sermon notes

- True Christian unity possible because of transformational work of Holy Spirit in believers.
 - As Christians abide in Jesus, Jesus abides in them, fruit produced.
 - A natural result of fruit of Holy Spirit is organic Christian unity.

Christian unity major factor in our witness to world...Without it, Gospel is hindered. John 17:21, 23

- If lost see Christian divided and “devouring” each other then they can conclude our faith is not real or impotent.
 - Are you a uniter/divider of body of Jesus Christ....life and social media?
- Along with godly lives (holiness), verbal witness, visible Christian unity proclaims truth of Gospel.
 - Christian unity is evidence Jesus Christ is Savior with power over sin and He can transform the most messed up lives.
 - It’s proof Jesus can bring peace within people and between people.
 - Be like Jesus and pray for unity of body in bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

Many truths in High Priestly Prayer, but overarching it all is Jesus’ amazing love for His own people and His desire to be with them for eternity. John 17:23-24, 1 John 4:11

- Jesus desires you to be with Him in heaven, to see/experience full extent of His glory and to praise/adore/delight in Him forever.
 - If by God’s grace we love “one another” as we are loved by the Father.
 - Then world will see Christian unity that glorifies God and testifies to power of Gospel.

POSITIVE “One Another” COMMANDS

Love (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)

Be devoted (Rom 12:10)

Honor above yourselves (Rom 12:10)

Live in harmony (Rom 12:16)

Build up (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Accept one another (Rom 15:7)

Admonish (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16)

Care for (1 Cor 12:25)

Serve (Gal 5:13)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Forgive (Eph 4:2, 32; Col 3:13)

Be patient with one another (Eph 4:2; Col 3:13)

Be kind and compassionate (Eph 4:32)

Submit (Eph 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)

Consider others better than yourselves (Phil 2:3)

Look to the interests of one another (Phil 2:4)

Bear with (Col 3:13)

Teach (Cols 3:16)

Comfort (1 Thess 4:18)

Encourage (1 Thess 5:11)

Exhort (Heb 3:13)
Stir up to love and good works (Heb 10:24)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

NEGATIVE “One Another” COMMANDS (how not to treat one another)

Do not lie (Col 3:9)
Stop passing judgment (Rom14:13)
Biting and devouring each other (Gal 5:15)
Envyng each other (Gal 5:26)
Slander (Jam 4:11)
Grumble against (Jam 5:9)