

OVERCOME

The Way of Unity

“I’m not praying only for them. I’m also praying for those who will believe in me through their message. I pray that all of these people continue to have unity in the way that you, Father, are in me and I am in you. I pray that they may be united with us so that the world will believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:20-21 (GW)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads us to common _____ about Him.

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

“I have revealed you to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.”

John 17:1-8 (NLT)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads us to a common _____ in Him.

“My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.”

John 17:9-12 (NLT)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads to common _____ through him.

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.”

John 17:13-19 (NLT)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads to common _____ about him.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

“I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”

John 17:20-23 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you suppose it's difficult to maintain unity within the body of Christ? What causes divisions within the church?
2. How does disunity affect the church? Why is unity within the church so important to Jesus?
3. What steps can you personally take to foster unity within the church?

Recommended Resources

- *Amazed by Jesus*, by Simon Ponsonby
- *Surprised by Hope*, by N. T. Wright
- *One Blood*, by John M. Perkins
- *Uncommon Unity*, by Richard Lints

GW (God's Word Translation)

NLT (New Living Translation)

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John 17:20-21 (GW)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads us to common CONVICTIONS about Him.

After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

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John 17:1-8 (NLT)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads us to a common CONFIDENCE in Him.

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John 17:9-12 (NLT)

- Jesus prays for a unity that leads to common COMPLETENESS through him.

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them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.”

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- Jesus prays for a unity that leads to common CONFIRMATION about him.

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