



How (Not) to Save the World, Week 6: Despise the Bride

The Lie: You don't need the church because there are too many _____ and too much _____.

The Truth: The church is better with you in it. Don't _____ the very community you're called to _____.

"...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."

John 17:11 (NLT)

Three ways we can join Jesus in building his church:

• **To attract people to Jesus we must live like Jesus in _____.**

"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 17:15-19 (NLT)

• **To attract people to Jesus we must live like Jesus in _____.**

"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)

• **To attract people to Jesus we must live like Jesus in _____.**

"Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

John 17:24-26 (NLT)

"...On this rock I will build my church, and the power of death will not be able to defeat it."

Matthew 16:18 (NCV)

Discussion Questions

1. Read John 17. What part of Jesus' prayer resonates with you?
2. When the Church is divided, what message does that send to the world? What do you think is the number one reason that most people give for not attending church?
3. What happens to the Church when unity between Christians is neglected?
4. Are there non-negotiable points of truth that all Christians must agree on? Is it possible to be united in truth as followers of Jesus?
5. What would happen if the world saw Christians united together, standing on the truth of God's Word?

Recommended Resources

- *How (Not) to Save the World*, by Hosanna Wong
- *Why We Love the Church*, by Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck
- *One Blood*, by John M. Perkins
- *Forgiving What You Can't Forget*, by Lysa TerKeurst
- *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, by Peter Scazzero