

# THE UNITY

JOHN 17:20-26 • PASTOR SCOTT FARMER

## OPENING REMARKS

Prayer is a wonderful mystery by which we draw near to God. Prayer is also a powerful tool by which we get to join God in His work in our world. Today we engage more of our Lord's prayers for us. All Scripture is inspired by God, but this passage seems to invite a unique intimacy with both Jesus and His Father. What was of concern to Jesus on His last night with His first followers? Not surprisingly, He wanted them and us to be with Him, to see His glory, and so love God the Father, and in turn, love each other so that a watching and skeptical world would come to know Christ.

## WARM IT UP

If you pray, for whom do you tend to pray? What do you mostly pray about? When do you find yourself praying, if at all?

## TALK IT OVER

Read John 17:20-26

1. In John 17:20-26 what does Jesus specifically ask on behalf of His disciples?
2. What do these requests mean?
  - a. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message" [20]
  - b. "that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You" [21a]
  - c. "May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me." [21b] [Note that Vv. 22-23 further explain these requests. Why do you suppose Jesus added these explanations into His prayer?]
  - d. "Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory." [24]
  - e. "I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." [26]
3. Of all the things Jesus could have asked, why do these matter so much?

## WORK IT OUT

1. As you consider living as His disciple and following Jesus into prayer, what do Jesus' prayers suggest for your life? For your prayer life?
2. Which of His prayers speak most into your present situation?
3. What steps [small or large] could you take in the next seven days to apply what you are learning?

## WEEKLY STUDY/OR SERMON THOUGHT

What was one thought/story from the sermon this week that helped you discover something new about Jesus or yourself, or helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus? In what ways did this sermon/study help you understand how to follow Jesus more each day?

## PRAY IT THROUGH

Try following Jesus in prayer by praying as He prayed in John 17:20-26. Ask a different person to focus on each of His prayers and pray them into your lives.

Jesus' passion is not just to reconcile you or me personally to our Father. Rather, He gave His prayer and His life to reconcile the human family to each other as a result. He identifies the unity of our new Jesus-following, glory experiencing community as a key witness to a skeptical and lost people who watch us to see if God loves them!

How Jesus longs for us to follow Him into prayer, and into Spirit empowered living out of His prayers for unity among Christians. May this week bring obvious opportunities to live in answer to Jesus' prayers. Also, isn't it just amazing that Jesus wants us to be with Him where He is and to see His glory?! Love the glimpses we get now. Can't wait for the full shot!

## QUOTE ON PRAYER

"I have since learned that the most mature believer is the one who is bent over, leaning most heavily on the Lord, and admitting his total inability to do anything without Christ. The greatest Christian is not the one who has achieved the most but rather the one who has received the most."

Jim Cymbala,  
*Fresh Faith: What Happens When Real Faith Ignites God's People*