

Core 46 - "Not Alone, But Together"

John 17:20-23

Better together: diff perspectives; same goal

A. Our unity was so important to the mission that Jesus prayed...

1. Jesus prayed for you personally! V20
"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message."
2. Jesus prayed we would be one in relationship with one another. V21a
"I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one..."
3. Jesus prayed that we would be one as evidence to the world. V21b
"And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me."
4. Jesus gave us His glory. V22
"I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as We are one."
How do we give God glory? We give God glory:
 - a. ...when we are trusting God.
"Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God." Romans 4:20
 - b. ...when we are producing fruit.
"When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father." John 15:8
 - c. ...when we are giving thanks.
"But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors (glorifies) Me. If you keep to My path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23
 - d. ...when we are believing in prayer.
"You can ask for anything in My name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father." John 14:13
 - e. ...when we are doing good works.
"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16
5. Jesus gave us Himself so we could be one. V23a
"I am in them and You are in Me."
6. Jesus prayed we would be one to win the world. V23b
"May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me..."
7. Jesus prayed we would be one to show God's love for the world. V23c
"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."

B. Jesus' prayer for unity meant...

1 Corinthians 1:10

1. Having a common mindset.
"Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose." Philippians 2:2

2. Having harmony with one another.
"so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." Romans 12:5
3. Doing good to one another.
"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10
4. Loving one another.
"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Romans 12:10
5. Being united in faith by growth and knowledge of God.
"This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." Ephesians 4:13
6. Having no barriers for loving.
"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart." 1 Peter 1:22

C. Jesus gave gifts to serve one another...

Ephesians 4:7-16

1. Jesus gave gifts to build and maintain unity in the body of Christ.
"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ."
2. Jesus gave gifts to use in benefitting the body of Christ.
"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly."
3. Jesus gave gifts for us to give back to God in the service of the church.
"As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."
4. Jesus gave gifts for us to give away and not to keep or bless ourselves.
"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." 1 Corinthians 12:7
5. If you don't know your spiritual gift:
 - a. "Walk into a room..."
 - b. "...look around..."
 - c. "...identify what needs to be done that you would enjoy doing with excellence!"
1 Corinthians 12:25, 27

D. How does each one of us bring unity?

1. Begin praying for unity in your own personal life.
2. Seek to glorify God by your life and choices.
3. Find your spiritual gift.
4. Look for a place to serve, using your gift.
5. Serve joyfully, without criticizing, in unity with one another!