

110820 Growth Group Study

A Blueprint for Revival

John 17:20-26



Background: In John 13-16 we have Jesus teaching and training his disciples to go out in the world and represent him. But in John 17, Jesus starts to pray aloud, so his disciples hear him. This is one of the most astonishing passages in the Bible. At one level it's astonishing because it is an extended conversation inside the triune God, an actual conversation between the Son and the Father. It's also true that Jesus is, so to speak, on his deathbed, and having been at the bedside of many people right before they have died, I can tell you that people who are dying are not really interested in small talk. They go right to what is most important to them. And that is true here as well. And when we look at this prayer in its entirety, we see the main thing that he has on his mind and heart as he is about to die is us, the church. He prays for a number of things for us in this chapter. This Sunday we will focus on one of those things as we look at the final 7 verses of that prayer.

Sermon Text (ESV):

John 17:20-26

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 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.”

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - We see in this passage that what preoccupies Jesus’s heart is you and His church. What is it that preoccupies your heart these days? What does that tell you about your relationship with the Lord?
 - Gary highlighted God’s big objective for the world in this passage -- “so that the world may know” -- as well His strategy to achieve it -- “that all of them may be one”. What is your overall reaction to this objective & strategy that Jesus lays out? How do you see (or not see) these at work today?
 - What kind of unity is Jesus talking about?
 - How have you experienced supernatural unity of the Spirit, the divine life with others (filled with love & warmth desired by all), before in your life?
 - When have you been surprised, like Martin Lloyd Jones, to find a deep bond between brothers & sisters in Christ even when you shared very few, if any, commonalities?
 - Unity may include sharing possessions, sharing problems, sharing truth, and sharing failure with one another. What is God calling you to share with others to unite His church?
 - Why is unity so important?
 - Gary challenged us that unless the world sees something inexplicably compelling in us, it will be very hard for them to believe what Jesus says,

including the truth claims of Christianity. What beliefs, attitudes, opinions, etc. might you need to let go to be a Christian first, and everything else second?

○ How can we get that unity?

- In this passage, Jesus says that God loves us even as He loved Jesus (v.20). The only true remedy to self-righteousness comes when the love of the Father displaces this sickness in our hearts. How have you seen God's love during this challenging season? Where/how do you need to embrace His love further to better be one with others?