

Jesus Prays for the Church **John 17:20-23** **The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus**

We are in week 4 of our 5 week series on the High priestly Prayer of Jesus – in-depth look at John 17
A) We seen how Jesus prayed for himself in V.1-5

B) Then we saw how Jesus prayed for his disciples in V.6-19 – we spent two weeks looking at that

C) Today we come to V.20 Jesus turns his attention to the ones he identifies in V.20 as the ones who will believe.... Their word

That is all of us

A) How amazing is it that over 2,000 years ago on the night before his death - Jesus was praying for us

B) And one of the things that was on his heart for us – was that we would be Unified.

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, (the Disciples) but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

C) Would you notice with me that in these 4 verses – Jesus mentions the oneness of the Body of Christ- 3X

D) V.21 ²¹ that they all may be one / again v.21 that they also may be one in Us/
V.22 that they may be one just as We are one

E) And then in V.23 he says this: that they may be made perfect (or complete is the idea) in one,

Unity or Oneness is one of the main things on the heart of Jesus for future believers – prior to the Cross.

A) Unity is a great thing in the eyes of the Lord – David inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote these words in Psalm 133

Behold, (Take notice) how good and how pleasant it is for brethren/sis to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard,

The beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion;

For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

B) Now by saying it is like the oil that was poured over the head of Aaron this high Priest – that ran down

C) Or like the Dew on MT Hermon that runs down

D) He is telling us Unity – Comes from Above a higher place - and runs down

1) In other words it is not manufactured by humans through systems and committees –

E) It originates from God - It comes down to us – from above.

Now if you talk to some people today they think – this is the part of the Prayer of Jesus that has not been answered

A) They think that because there is so much division in the body of Christ –

B) They point to all the different Church Denominations in the body

C) Question: Are different denominations a sign of the Disunity in the body of Christ

1) or of the Diversity that exist in the midst of Unity?

D) I think it is all a matter of perspective. -

I think Jesus gives us the perspective he wants us to have in the verses we have read today.

Note 4 things

- **The Foundation of Unity**
- **The Description of Unity**
- **The Glory of Unity**
- **The Goal of Unity**

The Foundation of Unity

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, (the Disciples) but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

A) He is praying for those who would become his followers through the Word of the Apostles –

B) The Word – doctrine – teaching

C) The Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel and to write the NT

D) Paul addressed this same truth when dealing with the unity of believers in Ephesians 2:19-20.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*.
Ephesians 2:19, 20

What did the apostles preach?

- They preached God as Creator, Sovereign, Judge, and the Giver of Life (Acts 17:23-31).
- They preached Jesus Christ as God Incarnate, the Son of God with power, as the Revealer of God to man, and as the righteousness of God (John 1:1-4, Rom. 1:4; John 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:21).
- They preached the gospel as "the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16).
- They preached "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" as the satisfaction of God to fulfill the just demands of His righteousness, that He might save sinners (I Cor. 2:2; Rom. 3:21-26).
- They preached Jesus Christ risen from the dead, as the conqueror of sin, death, and Satan (I Cor. 15).
- They preached that no man can be made right with God by his own adherence to the Law of God; no room for personal boasting of merit before God (Rom. 3:19-20; 10:4; Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 1:26-31).
- They preached the necessity of the new birth and the work of regeneration and that this salvation is wholly a work of God's grace (John 3:1-8; Eph. 2:1-10; Titus 3:5).

- They preached justification by faith alone in Christ alone for salvation (Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9).
- They preached repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).
- They preached Christ as Lord, the ongoing work of sanctification, and the assurance of salvation. (2 Cor. 4:5; 1 Cor. 1:30; John 17:17-19; Phil. 2:13; 2 Tim. 1:12; Phil 1:6).
- They preached the inspiration of the whole Bible as the Word of God – (2 Tim. 3:16) .

Those Doctrinal truths are the Foundation of our Faith and Unity in Christ

A) If you believe in that foundation – we are unified.

B) We come together in the person of Jesus – the cornerstone of our faith

C) If a person doesn't adhere to that foundation – then we cannot be unified.

The sad thing today is there are some churches and groups in an attempt to pursue unity have forsaken integrity a doctrinal purity

A) What they have done is eroded the foundation of the faith –

B) Martin Luther said this once: Peace if possible, but truth at all Cost

C) In the name of love and acceptance they tolerate things that are in complete opposition to scripture.

D) Jesus doesn't tolerate sin – he came to die for our sins – and to set us free from sin –

E) to tolerate sin in a person is not Love at all
1) Not the heart of Unity

Unity has the truth of God's word and the truth of the Work of Christ as it's foundation.

A) Unity is not Uniformity – Doesn't mean that we all talk alike – dress alike – worship the same way.

B) The Beauty of the Church is that there is Diversity
1) Different styles of Worship – music- Liturgy – Preaching

C) Learn this truth: Different is not wrong – Just Different

Example: Baskin Robbins – has 31 different flavors of Ice Cream

A) But it is all ice cream – same substance – Milk sugar....

B) Now in my house – One of my favorite flavors is Chocolate Chip – especially Thrifty ..

C) My daughter and grandson – love Mint Chip – I personally think Mint chip is disgusting –

D) Mint doesn't belong in ice cream

1) Great for Breath mints – Gum – Cough drops but not ice cream

E) But that is just my opinion – Preference – A difference

So when I open the Freezer at my house -and see a carton of Choc. Chip and another one of Mint chip –

A) Am I grossed out ? oh no Can't have ice cream now –

B) Mint chip is there and in my opinion not really ice cream - not having any –

1) throw both of them away?

C) No – You know what I do when I see the Mint chip – I rejoice – means there is more Choc. Chip for me

1) They prefer mint chip but they like Choc chip too.

Here is the point Here is how Unity works:

A) We learn to celebrate our Diversity – differences –

C) But Focus on what Unites us – Jesus and the truth of Scripture

D) You know I love the fact that my Bride Denise likes Ice Cream – for dessert

Now if On our Day off – if I said what do you want for dessert – and she said – Chika peas – Bummer -

A) No Unity – take her home ... chika peas – me IC

B) But because we both love Ice cream – there unity – we prefer different flavors

C) Same is true in the body of Christ –

D) Jesus and the Fundamental truths of Scripture are what unites us – That is our Foundation

1) He is what we have in Common

E) 1000 times better than ice cream

We can differ on things like – how we baptize – here at CV we dunk

A) Presbyterian – sprinkling – Ok – but we are still going to dunk you here

B) Differ on styles of worship – view of the rapture, women's role in the church. – Minor issues

C) Keep the Main thing the Main thing – Jesus – Salvation – The Bible

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

D) Work hard to keep the unity – celebrate the unity

One of the reasons that there is Disunity in the church today is because some people love to focus on minor issues

A) Make minor issues the focal point – like Political party – etc

B) What party you align is not a salvation issue not a foundation issue

C) We have always taught here – Make sure your politics line up with the Bible

1) Instead of trying to twist the Bible to line up with your Politics

D) We are all growing in the faith – and our knowledge of Scripture-

1) I am not going to cancel someone who votes different from me

So The Foundation of Unity is the Apostles doctrine

#2 The Description of Unity

²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,

A) The Unity that exist in the Godhead is both mystical and practical

B)Mystical in the sense that there are 3 Distinct beings – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – 3 Distinct beings – ONE GOD

C)Hard to understand – hard to grasp

There is a mystical side to our Union as well – But different

A)Several 100 people in this room today – One Person

B)But there is a mystical side to our Union – 100's of different people –

1)YET we are called the Body of Christ – the Bride of Christ

C)Connected in that way: Many members – One Body – Union

D)Ephesians 2:14 Jesus has broken down the wall of Hostility that existed between Jew and Gentile to make one new man in Christ

1)Oneness now – All sinners saved by Grace – Family

E)Connected by blood – the Blood of Jesus

But then there is a Practical side to the Unity that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit enjoy

A)Unity of Purpose and Mission – Save the World

B)The Father initiated and Sent the Son

1)The Son willingly obeyed and Went to die on the Cross

C)The Holy Spirit -is actively working to convict the World of sin and their need of Jesus

I think this is the Unity that Jesus is referring to here:

A)Unity of purpose and mission: To shine was lights to the world – to preach the gospel – to win the lost

B)Listen: God's objective is Unity – strive to keep that – keep the unity that Jesus established

C)Satan's objective is to Divide us – conquer us!

He seeks to do that by getting us to focus on our own agendas

A)Our own preferences – to the point where we no longer work together

B)Instead of celebrating our diversity we divide over it – Satan Wins

C)One of the things I have always appreciated about our CC movement is the Diversity that exist in our movement

We have a commonality in our Core Methods –

A)Teach through the Bible –

B)Openness to the Holy Spirit –

C)But the style and flavor can differ greatly from one CC to the next

There was a time where I didn't appreciate that Diversity

A)Saved at CCCM – came on staff here in 1985 Youth –

B)So 36.5 of my 40 yrs of Ministry have been with this church – 4.5 yrs in Oregon

C)When I came to CV in 1985 – Pastor BB was the pastor –

1)and we were a carbon copy of CCCM – way we did everything

D)6.5 yrs I was on staff here – not much different

But then I moved to Oregon. – Guys in the NW did ministry different

A)Still teaching the Bible verse by verse – CC Style

B)Worship was different – emphasized different things – some – Communion everyday – instead of once a month –

C)Some more showing – more performance –

D)Being a young 27 yr old church planter – I was like none of these guys are CC –

1)I need to show them what CC is really about

But then I would go to a SR pastors conference

A)And some of the very guys I was having trouble with – their different ways

Aa)They were the very guys that Pastor Chuck was having speak in the main sessions at the Conferences

B)One day it occurred to me – PC doesn't have a problem with these guys – why should I?

C)Suddenly my eyes were opened to see the beautiful diversity that exist in the CC movement

Then it went even further –

A)I came to celebrate and appreciate the beautiful diversity that exist in the body of Christ as a whole.

B)I have some dear friends who are pastors here in NC – their approach is different but – I celebrate them – pray for them

We are one in Jesus – One in our mission to reach our community for Jesus and yet we are different in our methods

A)Still the Church and the body of Christ

B)So we have the Foundation of Unity – the Doctrine of the Apostles

C)We have the Description of Unity – Unified in Purpose and Mission

#3 The Glory of Unity – this is intriguing to me that Jesus uses this language here

²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,

A)Glory is a word that really describes the whole being of God. In our context, glory is the revelation of God's character and person.

B)It is the summation of Who He is. We could say in answer to the question, 'Who is God?'

1)that 'God is the one being in the universe who is *full of glory*'.

C)When Jesus says here in V.22 - ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them,

D)Brings us back to V.6 – Our 2nd study Jesus said – I manifested your name to them

E)We noted: A name stands for the total character and resources of an individual.

To these men you have given me out of the world I have revealed to them –

A)Your person, Your nature, Your attributes, Your works, Your will, Your plan.” – all of that is bound up in the name of God

B)The Name of God is connected to the glory of God!

C)Exodus 34- Moses intercedes – One more thing – Can I see your Glory ?

1)No –Kill you - Backside to pass by – Declare my name – connection

God declared his name to Moses:

⁵ The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed his name, “the LORD.” ⁶ The LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed:

The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, ⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation. Exodus 34:5-7 CSB

The Glory of God is seen in the fact that He is:

- The Lord
- Compassionate
- Gracious
- Slow to Anger
- Abounding in faithful love and truth
- Maintaining faithful love to 1,000 generations
- Forgiving iniquity sin and rebellion
- Bringing consequences for sin from one generation to another

A)Now When Jesus says the glory that you have given to me I have given to them –

Aa)he is saying – this is what I revealed to them –

B)I revealed to them who you are:

- The Lord
- Compassionate
- Gracious
- Slow to Anger
- Abounding in faithful love and truth
- Maintaining faithful love to 1,000 generations
- Forgiving iniquity sin and rebellion
- You deal rightly with sin - Bringing consequences for sin from one generation to another

C) That revelation of who God is that God gave to Moses –

1) was seen the clearest in Jesus on the cross at Calvary

God's compassion was on display –

A) In that he was choosing to deal with man's sin by entering into his world – literally becoming sin

B) God's grace was on display – giving man what he didn't deserve

C) God being slow to Anger was on display –

1) in that instead of Judging man like he will one day – He punished his son in our place

God's faithful love and truth were on display

A) as Jesus out of love for lost and rebellious man was dying a substitutionary death in our place

B) His death would cover the sins of 1,000's of generations of mankind

1) Providing Forgiveness of sin, iniquity and rebellion

C) On God's glory was on display in that he was not ignoring the consequences of man's sin

1) Jesus took the consequences in our place

Remember how there were many times when people wanted to make Jesus King

A) He responded – Now is not the time for me to be glorified – he said that over and over again

B) Until he comes to this week – Now is the time for me to be glorified –

1) he was speaking of his death

C) Because The very name that God declared to Moses in Exodus 34 –

1) when Moses asked to see God's glory

D) Was on display loud and clear – in Jesus the day he died on the Cross

The Apostle John would sum all of that up in this phrase – We beheld HIS glory, the glory of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

The Glory of God was reflected in Jesus in the way that he lived his life – for sure –

A) But the loudest display of that Glory was revealed on the Cross at Calvary

B) When Jesus says- He is praying that we would experience the Glory of Unity

C) Now This is what he means – We would experience – the glory that comes when we are reflecting God –

D) By being willing to die to ourselves

1) To bless and advance someone else

This is why we struggle:

A) We struggle and are naturally divisive because our sin nature – is naturally selfish

B) This is why Jesus prays that the glory of unity would be made perfect in us – or complete in us

C) This is the process of the road of Sanctification that the HS is taking us all down – Make us more like Jesus

D) Discover that it is more blessed to give than to receive –

E) that life in Christ comes through dying to self –

1) My needs, wants, desires – others are made better

Paul refers to it as growing into the head who is Christ in Ephesians 4:15,16

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part. Ephesians 4:15, 16 CSB

The Glory of Unity is seen when the church is working in union together to grow in Christ and build one another up in Christ.

That brings us to the Goal of Unity

²¹ that the world may believe that You sent Me.

²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, V.23b and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Unity is a witness to an unbelieving world

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
John 13:34, 35

A) One of the things that made the early church so attractive to outsiders

B) They had all things in Common.

C) You had all these people from different parts of the middle east – Come to Jesus

D) Different economic backgrounds –
1) Different social backgrounds

E) Different educational backgrounds
1) Different political ideologies

All things in Common?

A) No they didn't – but they had Jesus in common and that was all that mattered

B) That foundation brought unity – marked by a love for one another – sharing –

C) Where outside of the church do we see that today?

Maybe a sporting event

A) Dodger game – Rams Chargers - all rooting for the same team

B) Your team scores and people that don't even know one another – high fives – hugging – cheering

C) Really an amazing moment – to be a part of

Until the game is over – and everyone is trying to get out of the parking lot

A) The Kumbai is over – utter strife and chaos

B) No one is deferring to his neighbor – You go bro – I will wait – 10 cars pass

C) No the mentality after the game is every man for himself

No, the only place where Unity amidst diversity – continues to be present – **IN THE CHURCH**

A) Unity in Worship – Unity in purpose – Unity in Motive

B) The world the unbeliever comes in here and says – Ok – God is real- Jesus is alive

C) Different about these people – they really love each other

I love the Diversity in this church –

A) From 1983-1995 – Rep for being a surfer church

B) A lot of white people that surfed – Our pastor surfed – attracted people into that

C) Lots of stuff at the beach.

But over the years there as been a change

A) One missionary who came back and visited said this to me

B) Pretty cool the church looks like the community

C) Unity in the face of Diversity – Different races – backgrounds – economic places

D) Unity that is based on the Foundation of the Work of Jesus Christ and the Word of God

As we Move forward new Season: New Pastor

A) We need to work hard to keep the Unity that exist among us

B) That is what is going to continue to make this place a light to the unbelieving world

C) Amen?