



ONENESS (John 17)

The late Francis Schaeffer called the unity of the church "*the final apologetic*" to our watching world. If our UNITY is the ultimate argument that what we believe about Jesus is TRUE, then what does our disunity demonstrate? Let's live in ONENess!

* All Scripture is from the CSB (Christian Stand Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Catch the Context Jesus participated in the Passover meal with His disciples where He told them:

- 1) love and serve one another (washing their feet and leaving them an example)
- 2) One of Jesus disciples present at the Passover meal would betray Him.
- 3) Jesus was leaving to prepare a place for them and would return to take them to be with Him. In His absence, He would send the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Jesus also talked about leaving & returning in "a little while" - referring to His resurrection from the dead.
- 5) Jesus warned them of tough times of persecution/opposition that were coming, but encouraged them that the Spirit of truth would empower them & encourage them.

And now Jesus prays for them just before He goes to the cross for them.

John 17:1-2 ¹ Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said: "Father, **the hour has come**. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you gave him authority over all flesh, so **that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him**."

Father. *Jesus is praying, but to WHO? The Father*. Jesus is not praying to Himself (a false teaching known as **modalism**, where God changes MODES).

The Bible teaches that there is ONLY ONE true God, revealed in 3 persons: Father, Son, Spirit.

Jesus, God **the Son**, is praying to God the **Father**.

The hour has come.

This is a phrase used over and over in this gospel writing (contrast how the hour has NOT come 2:4; 7:6, 8, 30; 8:20 to the arrival of the hour in 12:23, 27-28, 31-32; 13:1, 31). This is why Jesus has come, "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*" (Jn 1:29). This will **glorify** God the Father and the Son, and **give eternal life** to those who trust Jesus.

Defining "Eternal Life"

John 17:3-5 ³ **This is eternal life**: that they may **know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ**. ⁴ I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, **glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed**.

Eternal life is not just about QUANTITY of life, but QUALITY of life. *Eternal life is not just about how long you live, but how you live, and WHO you live with! And Eternal life is not about how much you know, but WHO you know:* to know **God** (the Father) and **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God.

- **Jesus** = Hebrew *Yeshua* = **Yahweh saves**
- **Christ** = Hebrew *Messiah* = **anointed**.

The disciples of Jesus understood "knowing Jesus" to mean they must remain in the Vine (John 15:1-5), connected and following the King - the Lord Jesus, Himself.

That glory I had with you before the world existed.

This might be the most powerful claim of Deity spoken directly by Jesus. Or...the most arrogant claim by a human being ever.

* As Jesus **glorified** the Father by **completing the work** of obedience to death on the cross (Phil 2:5-11), so He looked forward the moment when to the Father would **glorify** Him, and be in His immediate **presence** once again.

John 17:6 ⁶ "I have revealed Your Name to the people You gave me from the world. They were Yours, You gave them to me, and they have kept Your word.

Revealing God's name doesn't mean Jesus taught His disciples how to pronounce God's name (Yahweh). **Revealing God's named** means **Jesus showed them who God is** - "His character, nature, and attributes."² King David wrote:

Psalms 20:7 ⁷ Some boast in chariots and others in horses, but **we boast in the name of Yahweh, our God.**

Yahweh is perfectly pure, all powerful & all-knowing. Jesus thoroughly demonstrated who God is through His pure life, powerful miracles, & profound teachings. That's what Jesus meant when He said,

John 14:7 ⁷ **If you know me, you will also know my Father.** From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Jesus radically revealed the Father's heart to the people who were already listening to Him. Jesus had earlier said:

John 6:45 ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: *And they will all be taught by God.* **Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me**

The Father **gave them** to be Jesus' disciples. Although these disciples would still stumble, they had recognized and responded to Jesus.

John 17:7-11 ⁷ Now they know that everything You have given me is from You, ⁸ because I have given them the words You gave me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. **They have believed that You sent me.** ⁹ "I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those You have given me, because they are Yours. ¹⁰ Everything I have is yours, and everything You have is mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. **Holy Father, protect them** by Your Name that you have given me, **so that they may be one as we are one.**

HOW are Jesus & the Father ONE? *The Father & Son are perfectly UNITED in Purpose, yet UNIQUE in Person. So too, believers are to be UNITED...yet UNIQUE. We have the same PURPOSE although even though we are not the same PERSON.*

The Father and Son honored one another and worked together to accomplish the mission to further the Kingdom. Jesus prays the same would be true of US - that **that they may be one as we are one.**

ONeness Defined: Honoring One Another & Working Together to Accomplish the Mission

John 17:12-15 ¹² While I was with them, I was protecting them by your name that you have given me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that **You protect them from the evil one.**

Followers of Jesus are to look forward to eternity, but followers of Jesus are here to influence those on earth.

Jesus prays **NOT** for them to be **REMOVED**, but for them to be **PRESERVED**...asking the Father will protect His disciples from the influence of **the evil one** - the father of lies - the deceiver - the accuser - Satan.

John 17:16-19 ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ **As You sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.** ¹⁹ I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

🕒 Here is a way we should pray for our children & grandchildren.

☀️ **Father, use them to influence the lost world without being influenced by the lost world! Don't take them out of the game. Protect them through it!**

Jesus prays for...US?

John 17:20-23 ²⁰ "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. ²¹ **May they all be one, as You, Father, are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us, so that the world may believe You sent me. ²² I have given them the glory You have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and You are in me, so that they may be **made completely one, that the world may know You have sent me** and have loved them as You have loved me.

Jesus knew His disciples (preserved & not removed) would impact the next generation who would impact the next generation who would impact...Us and beyond! His prayer for THEM...his prayer for US...is **ONeness**

ONeness = Honoring One Another & Working Together to Accomplish the Mission

When we are ONE - *UNIFIED in Purpose* as the Father & Son - the world will know that Jesus was **sent** by the Father.

BIG TRUTH: Our ONENess is our Witness to the Watching World

How many times have the claims of Jesus been diluted by the dissension & disputes among those who claim Jesus? **Is it possible that we are *DISTRACTING* others rather than *ATTRACTING* others?**

☀ **Ken Sande** writes: "Since peace and unity are essential to an effective Christian witness, you can be sure that there is someone who will do all he can to promote conflict and division among believers. Satan, whose name means "adversary," likes nothing better than to see us at odds with one another."³

And when we're at odds with each other, we feel alone and frustrated instead of a powerful team accomplishing a worthy mission.

🕒 **THIS is our unifying purpose - to make known the GLORY of God!** When this is OUR heartbeat, it won't matter *who does what* as long as God is glorified. When this is placed above all other agendas we will be **completely one** (v.23)...and **Our ONENess is our Witness to the Watching World.** Our culture will see evidence that the claims of Jesus are true...and that WE are **loved** by God, as we love one another through the good & bad.

It is THIS love overflowing from the Father - to the Son - to YOU & ME that leads us to be **ONE**. And...

BIG TRUTH: Our ONENess is our Witness to the Watching World

The world will stare in wonder, questioning: "How can they love each other like that unless Gods love is real, powerful, and flowing through them?"

☀ The late **Francis Schaeffer** called the unity of the church "**the final apologetic**" to the watching world.

If our UNITY is the ultimate argument that what we believe about Jesus is TRUE...then what does our **disunity** demonstrate?

📦 Others can discount what we SAY, but they can't discount what they SEE.⁴

How can we grow to be completely ONE?

- ◆ It's gonna take **TIME**. Real relationships take time to develop.
- ◆ It's gonna take **TALK**. Talk about the spiritual truths of God. Share what's really going on in your life.
- ◆ It's gonna take a **TEACHABLE spirit**. Receive correction & learn from one another.
- ◆ It's gonna take a **UNIFIED Purpose** to to **accomplish the mission & make known the GLORY of God**. In order to make this happen, we will have to forgive, encourage, confront, cry, & celebrate together.

If you don't yet know Jesus, talk with a Christian friend.

FEET2FAITH

1. **Restore a Relationship.** Is there a believer in this Body that you need to get right with? Set up the meeting. Approach humbly. Ask forgiveness. Extend forgiveness. Do your best to make it right.
2. **Encourage your Faith Family DAILY.** Send one encouraging text, email, phone call, or face-to-face encouragement per day.

* **Want to talk further?** Please contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Tom & Martha Waddail, Steve & Debbie Bass, Freddy & Joyce Howard, Jere & Darlene Burnette, Alan & Christy Androski, Willy & Melissa Gamalero.

John 17:24-26 ²⁴ "Father, I want those You have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because You loved me before the world's foundation. ²⁵ Righteous Father, the world has not known You. However, I have known You, and they have known that You sent me. ²⁶ I made Your Name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love You have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them."

³ Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Kindle 510.

⁴ MacArthur - *Colossians & Philemon NT Commentary*, 88.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impacted you most from the teaching today?
2. When most people think of “eternal life”, what comes to mind? **Read John 17:3.** How is Jesus’ definition of eternal life different? (Look back at your notes to stir your thoughts.) What would you say to the person who says they have “eternal life” but they have no desire or demonstration to seek & obey Jesus?
3. **ONEness** defined is *Honoring One Another & Working Together to Accomplish the Mission*. Who and how are you honoring within your local church? What are you doing *TOGETHER* to accomplish the mission Jesus gave us to share the good news of Jesus and develop disciples?
4. **Read John 17:15-23.** Today’s BIG TRUTH was: ***Our ONEness is our Witness to the Watching World***. How can our UNITY impact our watching world? How can our DISUNITY dilute the truth to our watching world? Share a time when you saw either of these things happen (leave out specific names - that goal is not to gossip, but to encourage and warn).
5. Is there another believer you need to approach this week to attempt to restore relationship? If so, will you let us hold you accountable to set up the talk, and have one of us go with you - if needed?
6. Share a way another believer has encouraged you recently. Then make the time to encourage someone in your local church or from another sister church. Pray for one another and move on to the mission God has given you!