

Shared Eternity

John 17:20-26

vs. 20, I pray for those who believe in me through their word.

The most valid witness is the the testimony of God's people.

Come and See

- Think of the enormity of the global church.
- Now consider the fragility of passing the good news of Jesus to the next generation.

Judges 2:10 That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the Lord or the works he had done for Israel.

A warning and a mandate!

God has made a way to dwell with his people.

Jesus is praying for all of the redeemed.

What does Jesus pray?

- That they all be one. (As the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father).
- That the redeemed embrace the truth of the mutuality of the "eternity life".
- They have the *glory* (**vs. 22**, I have given them the glory). It is this glory which enables oneness!
- That they may be one as we are one.

Glory (glorify) -> the visible or invisible radiance of God's presence and being, as shown in creation and in the mighty act of God.

Glory is honor!

Jesus will reveal the love and compassion the Father (God) has for human beings.

What's the point?

Eternal Life (**vs. 3**) -> that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent - Jesus Christ.

Why oneness?

vs. 23, So the world may know you have sent me (Jesus) and you love them in the same way you love me (Jesus).

We now will display this glory through unity.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

We believe in the one, holy, and universal Church.

- Jesus has been sent.
- The Apostles have been sent.
- And now the redeemed are being sent.

It will put on display the sharp contrast between the world as a place of beauty and the world as a place of tragedy.

Remember: **13:35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

- The world as a place of tragedy is characterized by disunity (7:43; 9:16; 10:19; 12:42-43).
- The world as a place of beauty is characterized by harmony (13:34-35; 17:21-23).

Notice: To be harmonious, to be cohesive it imperative to not remove difference!

vs. 24, I want them to be where I am.
Why? So they will see my glory.

What does his glory display?
The love of the Father before the world's foundation.

John's gospel is filled with amazing connectivity.

12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me. Where I am, there my servant also will be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

14:3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

Remember: Chapters 14 and 15 are revealing the purposes of God.

- To dwell or dwelling all describe a variety of interpersonal relationships between the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and believers (14:10, 17, 23, 25).

There are many rooms...

There are many connecting tissues of interpersonal relationships made possible through the indwelling of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We are Jesus people!

- We are a community of connective tissue.
- We are the family of God.
- We are the living temple of God's indwelling presence!

John is revealing the radical new interpretation of the household of God. *From temple to a community of Jesus people.*

Because we are enveloped into the circle of Jesus we are liberated to live with the freedom of being a child of God.

- We are no longer slaves to an evil power.
- We are no longer parented by the devil (8:44). God is our Father!
- We have been given the Holy Spirit which allows us to experience the unity of divine love. It is this oneness that will transform the world from a place of tragedy to a place of beauty.

Jesus engages the capability of unity!

vs. 25, Another reference to the world.

The world is the place that is actively working in opposition to God.
The world does not know the Righteous Father.

The Father is 'righteous'.

The Father is in the business of restoration.

The Father will judge all the earth and we can have complete peace that his judgment is righteous.

What is eternal life? To *know* God, to be in *relationship* with him and to *experience* all the goodness of that relationship both in the *present age* and the *age to come*.

vs. 26, The continual mission of Jesus is to make the Father's love known.

- The same love that the Father and the Son share is the love that Jesus will cultivate in every believer.
- The tangible fruit of a life surrendered to Jesus!

One last thought...

We can actively love each other in a way that shows Tucson Jesus is better.