

A. Sermon Slides

Slide 1: Sermon Title
Eternal Church Coordinates: Community
John 17:20-26

Slide 2:
John 17:20-26 (ESV)
“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Slide 3:
Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Slide 4:
Jesus prays that this community would be perfectly one, so that the world would see the glory and love of the Father.

Slide 5:
What does it mean to be "one"?
It does not mean "same."
Unity does not mean uniformity.

Slide 6:
Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)
...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Slide 7:
The Spirit creates Oneness. We simply have to maintain it.

Slide 8:
How does the Spirit create oneness (unity)?
A. The Spirit makes us like people in essence or character

Slide 9:
The Fruit of the Spirit makes us the same kind of people
The Fruit makes us be

Slide 10:

The Oneness of the Trinity is not only the basis for community, but the model for it.

Slide 11:

How does the Spirit create oneness (unity)?

A. The Spirit makes us like people in essence or character

B. The Spirit makes us diverse through our gifting

Slide 12:

The Fruit makes us be

The Gifts tells us what to do

Slide 13:

I Corinthians 12

Ephesians 4

Romans 12

I Peter 4

Slide 14:

The Spirit disseminates the ministry power of Jesus (found in One) to a people (spread through many)

Slide 15:

Why did God create a community?

So that the world will know...

Slide 16:

"According to the early Christians, the church doesn't exist in order to provide a place where people can pursue their private spiritual agendas and develop their own spiritual potential. Nor does it exist in order to provide a safe haven in which people can hide from the wicked world and ensure that they themselves arrive safely at an otherworldly destination. Private spiritual growth and ultimate salvation come rather as the byproducts of the main, central, overarching purpose for which God has called and is calling us. This purpose is clearly stated in various places in the New Testament: that through the church God will announce to the wider world that he is indeed its wise, loving and just Creator; that through Jesus He has defeated the powers that corrupt and enslave it; and that by His Spirit He is at work to heal and renew it."

NT Wright

Slide 17:

The church was meant to be God's mission to the world.

B. Group Discussion

- 1) Read John 17:20-26. What is Jesus asking for, and what is the model for those requests?
- 2) The Spirit gives each individual Christian the Fruit of the Spirit. What are the reasons for that, and what does that accomplish?
- 3) The Spirit also gives each individual Christian certain gifts. What are the reasons for that, and what does that accomplish?
- 4) Have you ever figured out what you have been gifted to do in the Body of Christ? How will you discover that?
- 5) Explain how this community (city on a hill) begins to communicate comprehensive salvation to the world. What should they be seeing as they look in? What should spill over into the "suburb" in order to bless and point to God?
- 6) How can we work toward being a true community as God intended? What is your responsibility in this?
- 7) Prayer and praise