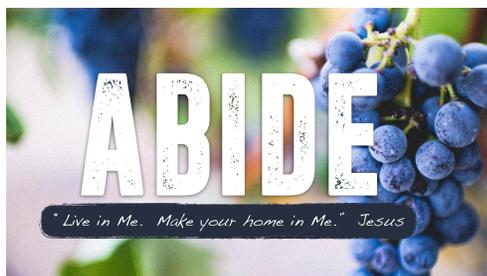


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Power of Unity

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
July 3, 2022



Is unity even possible & if so how do we get there?

John 17:20-26 (NLT) “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. ²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! ²⁵ “O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. ²⁶ I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.”

Why did Jesus pray for unity in the Church; what does it look like, & how do we achieve it?

• Church unity begins with God & the Gospel.

v. 21 “I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.”

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NLT) “For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.”

• Church unity is for everyone.

v. 20 “all who will ever believe in me through their message”

Matthew 28:19 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

Revelation 7:9 (NLT) “After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.”

“The Unity of the Church refers to the union of the people of God, in all their various distinctives and expressions, bound to God and to one another by the gospel.”

• Church unity is mission critical.

John 17:21,23 “I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me... ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”

• Church unity is hard & that's why we need the Gospel!

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV) “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Big Idea: Prioritize union with Christ to see unity in the Church.

How do we do this?

• Prioritize your relationship with Jesus Christ.

• Pray for Unity.

• Practice Unity.

• Protect Unity.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NLT) “We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.
 To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Power of Unity
#11 of 11 - July 3, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at embracing our “sentness” as believers from John 17:6-19. What has the Lord been impressing on your heart in this regard? Did you have any opportunities this week to share your story or the Gospel with friends and neighbours? How did that go?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 17:20-26. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What’s the theme of this chapter, or passage? What’s the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does Jesus mean when he talks about “oneness” between the Father and Son, and between the Son and disciples? How does this relate to us? Why is union with Christ (abiding in Him) a prerequisite for unity in the Church?
- 6) Read Ephesians 2:14-18. How does the work of Christ make unity possible in the Church? What are the implications for us at Sequoia?
- 7) Read John 17:21-23. In what way is unity “mission-critical” for us as a church and as Impact Communities?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What steps will you take this week in each of these areas?
 - Prioritize your relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - Pray for Unity.
 - Practice Unity.
 - Protect Unity.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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