

"Cultivating Authentic Community"

From the Series,
"Love, Tell, Help People"

John 17
Preached Sunday AM 3/30/14
Meadow Baptist Church



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

Love People. Tell People. Help People.

5 Shared Priorities for Meadow

1. Cultivating authentic community together
2. Discovering renewing worship together
3. Pursuing spiritual growth together
4. Embracing committed stewardship together
5. Engaging in reaching others together

1. Listen To What Jesus Prayed (John 17:9-11)

- a. " 9 I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given me, for they are Yours. 10 All mine are Yours, and Yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

2. Notice What He Emphasized (John 17:15-23)

- a. Distinction: Christ's Church is in the world, but not of the world (15-19) - "15 I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. "
- b. Influence: We will have an impact on the world (20-21) - "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, 21 that they

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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.”

- c. Oneness: Authentic community displays Christ’s glory (22-23) - “The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 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.”

3. How Might We Fulfill This?

SMALL GROUPS AT MEADOW

- a. By Making time for cultivating community - Prioritize the opportunity and need to foster meaningful relationships with other believers
- b. By doing life alongside of others - Commit, Connect & Belong. Small Groups at Meadow meet each week. This is where lasting friendships are made. This where care is offered and received. This is where serving others takes place and community is developed.
- c. By taking genuine interest in the lives of others - Spiritual growth accelerates when we pursue it together. Even if you have no overwhelming sense of needing to connect with others, the Spirit of God reminds us that others need us. Connecting with others exposes you to what God is doing in other lives and invites you to take part in it.
- d. By being refreshed in the oneness that Jesus prayed you would have with others - Psalm 133 (read Psalm 133)
- e. Authentic Community: the refreshing oil of clear & anointed purpose coupled with the refreshing dew which combats dryness