

ENCOUNTERS with JESUS

The Unifying Christ



Encounters With Jesus: The Unifying Christ John 17

When we unite with Jesus in baptism we are united with him in death for life! Jesus, the unifying Christ, came so that individuals who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life. Jesus came to reconcile individuals with the Father and to unite individuals with Himself and the Father forever. Jesus united with all believers. All believers united on mission. The priority of our unity is glory to the Father and the Son so the world may know and believe that the Father sent His love for us through Jesus His Son the Unifying Christ (John 17:10, 23).

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.

20 I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 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. 22 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.

John 17:10, 11, 20-23 ESV

• Believers Hold These Truths from Jesus' Prayer in John 17

- Jesus and the Father are One

Even as we are one. (John 17:11)

You, Father are in me, and I in you (21)

That they may be one even as we are one (22)

Even as you loved me (23)

- Jesus Unifies us with Himself

All mine are yours, and yours are mine (John 17:10)

I am glorified in them (10)

That they also may be in us (21)

I in them (23)

- Jesus Unifies us with God

All mine are yours (John 17:10)

Holy Father, keep them in your name (11)

That they also may be in us (21)

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one (23)
That the world may know you sent me and loved them even as you loved me (23)

- Jesus Unifies us with Other Believers

That they may be one, even as we are one (John 17:11)
That they may all be one (21)
That they also may be in us (21)
That they may be one even as we are one (22)
I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one (23)

- Jesus Unifies us On Mission

They are in the world (John 17:10)
So that the world may believe that you have sent me (21)
So that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me (23)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1:15-23

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Life Application Questions

1. Why did God send Jesus?
2. What did Jesus come to do?
3. What does it mean to be reconciled?
4. Have you been you reconciled with God? How did it happen? How do you know today?
5. What does it mean to be unified? With Jesus? With God the Father? With others?
6. What is the mission of every believer?
7. Are you on mission with Jesus the Unifying Christ? What evidence can you give? What plans do you have?