

Unity

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Today we're talking about "unity". How does "unity", become a "witness" to people around you about your relationship?

Q: What happens in organizations, families, businesses, nations when "unity" breaks down?

Q: How do you see "division" and "disunity" around us today? What do you think will happen because of that?

TABLE TIME...

Read: John 17:11-23 "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 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. 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"

Q: In this part of His prayer, what are some of the things that stick out to you? Why does this seem significant to you?

Q: According to verse 21, what is the impact of unity?

Q: According to verse 22, what does "glory" have to do with "unity"?

(Side note: *in the Greek, the word we translate "glory" is the word "doxa". I means: "the quality of splendid, remarkable appearance, glorious").* Another way of asking this question might be: "How is unity, glorious"?

Q: In verse 23, Jesus is very specific about the “kind of unity” He’s praying for. What is it AND, how does our “perfect unity” connect to the world “knowing” that God sent Jesus and how does that help the world see His “love for them”?

Q: What’s “hard” about “unity”?

Q: What should we do when there’s NOT unity?

BIG GROUP DEBRIEF...

Read: Ephesians 4:1-7: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift”

Q: According to verse 1-2, what are the attitudes and characteristics that should “mark” our life together?

Q: How does, “doing” verses 1-2, help with “maintaining the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace”?

Q: How does NOT having those characteristics, work against unity and peace?

Q: According to verses 4—6, the “body” of Christ has and is something! What are those according to these verses?

Q: How does unity demonstrate those things?

Q: How does disunity working against that witness?

Q: According to verse 7, what has God given to us?

Q: Why is “grace” so important to unity AND to our “witness”?

Q: When you think about the “measure of Christ’s gift” of grace to YOU, how “much” has He measured out to you?

Q: How should that “measure” help us in our relationships with others?

Q: What’s the relationship between grace and unity?

Q: How is THAT “glorious” (remember our discussion during “Table Time”) to the world around us?

HOMEWORK: Begin to pray for ways to extend “grace” to those who need it!