

- In His prayer, Jesus has asked the Father to keep those who belong to Him ... He's asked the Father to sanctify those who belong to Him ... Now He's asking the Father to unite those who belong to Him ... The Father keeps us by sanctifying us ... And in sanctifying us He unites us ... Our sanctification – God setting us apart for Himself and working in us to bring about the image of Christ – this process is grounded in our position in Christ ... Our position infuses our life – how we live, how we speak, how we think, how we are when others can see us and how we are when no one can see us
- Vs21, 23 ... Jesus lived from His position with the Father ... While on earth, Jesus was united to the Father by the Holy Spirit ... He was never separated from the Father – “a personal, mutual indwelling” – Jesus knew the Father resided within Him, and He knew that He resided with the Father ... And He lived from this position everyday
 - The unity Jesus is praying that His disciples experience is not a unity we muster up ourselves – it's not something we create ... The unity He wants us to realize is one that has already been created for us because of the Holy Spirit who lives within us ... As Paul says in Ep4:3, make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit ... You and I are to live from the position we've been placed into, and allow this union to infuse our relationships with one another and those not yet part of God's family
 - The relationships we share with one another is to mirror the relationship we've been united into ... The Father and Son shared a deep love for one another and with one another ... Nothing was superficial about the fellowship they enjoyed with each other ... They honored and valued each other ... They served each other ... Though Jesus was without sin, He still daily depended on the Holy Spirit to empower Him to live from the position He shared with the Father ... The same Holy Spirit Jesus depended on and was empowered by each day, now lives in you and me – He unites you and me to God and to one another
 - The reality of our position is to infuse our relationship not only with God but also our relationship with each other ... Ep5:28-30 – just as we seek to maintain the health of our physical bodies, so we must even more seek to maintain the health of our spiritual body ... How we treat one another matters ... How we interact with one another matters ... How we think about and talk about one another matters ... We cannot demand from others what we're not willing to freely give to others – honor, respect, authenticity
 - We can get so fixated on the sin going on in the world, yet we close our eyes to the sin running rampant in the church – gossip, pride, backbiting, dissension, legalism, negative criticism, jealousy, unforgiveness, self-righteousness, bitterness ... Because we've been united to Jesus, we must live from this position of oneness – of unity – with each other and towards each other
 - This type of unity transforms the culture of a local church ... It's being an authentic family ... This type of unity proves the truthfulness of the gospel to a world that's watching our every move ... Kingdom living