

Jesus Prays for God's Church

John 17:20-24

Taking it Home:

1. Take a moment to reflect on the relationships that you have with others in the body of Christ. Are there any relationships that are out of synch? What role can you play in restoring those relationships? Pray that God would create unity in your relationships and increase your witness in the world.

Prayer Concerns:

An Ever-expanding church...

Knit together in unity...

What is Christian unity?

It is not...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

It is:

1. _____ through the reconciling work of _____.
2. _____ through union with the _____.
3. _____ through oneness in _____ and _____ rooted in the _____.

How do we maintain Christian unity?

By living with the posture of:

So that the world may believe!

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What drew you to the Church?

Digging Deeper:

Read John 17:20-24

1. What is surprising about Jesus' prayer in verse 20, given the circumstances surrounding the night it was prayed? How could Jesus pray with such confidence about the future of the Church? Read Acts 4:29-31. How do the gifts of prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit influence the growth of the Church?
2. Jesus said, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message." What is the message of the apostles? How would you clearly and succinctly articulate that message to someone today?
3. Jesus prays for unity between believers three times in verses 20-24. Why is unity so important to him? In what ways have you seen discord and conflict between Christians affect those both inside and outside of the Church?

4. What kind of unity exists between the Father and the Son? In what ways do we participate in this unity by nature of our adoption as God's children?
5. Read Ephesians 2:14-18. What does Paul say about Christian unity? How is it established? In what ways has the cross allowed you to experience meaningful relationships with those you may not normally hang out with?
6. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. How do the five character traits found in this passage foster unity among believers? Think about which character traits you need to grow in to better reflect the relationships Christ desires in His Church.
7. Jesus ends this section of his prayer by saying, "I want those you have given me to be with me where I am." [vs.24] How does unity in the Church help accomplish Christ's prayer?