

Praying With Passion, Part 2

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." - John 17:20-26

In This Series...

1. We listen as God speaks to God. We see Jesus as equal to the Father and yet distinct from Him.
2. We learn about the heart of prayer. This is not about the "how to" of prayer, but the "want to" of prayer.

Jesus Prays With Passion

A. Jesus prays for all of those who would believe in the message of these eleven Apostles.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message..." - John 17:20

This means that Jesus knew that He alone was the object of salvation! (...believe in "me")

This means that the Apostles would remain within the faith!

"But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone." - John 16:32

This means that the Apostles would teach and/or write the message of Jesus.

This means that the Word of God is unstoppable.

"Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens." - Psalm 119:89

B. Jesus makes two requests for us.

Can you imagine that God Himself prayed for you before you were even born?

1. That all believers would be one.

²¹ "...that all of them may be one..." - John 17:21

²² "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one..."

²³ "I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity..." - John 17:23

- That the corporate church might be one.

There are more than 46,000 denominations. Groups disagree and divide on every possible doctrine and practice.

We need to agree on the basics of our faith.

- That the local church might be one.

This is the greatest evangelism program that the church will ever have! How are we doing?

"...so that the world may believe that you have sent me." - John 17:21

*"I in them and you in me. May they be brought to **complete unity to let the world know that you sent me** and have loved them even as you have loved me."* - John 17:23

The world cannot understand our doctrine or see our faith but, they are able to witness our unity (or lack thereof).

We must protect this unity!

- Through healthy conflict management.

- Through true forgiveness.

"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." - Matthew 6:12

- Through Christian fellowship.

- That each of us individually might work towards unity with fellow believers.

Two words that you should know:

Polemic — to look at and focus on differences.

Irenic — to look at and focus on common ground.

How would life be different for you right now if you were focused on and committed to being irenic?

2. That all believers would be with Christ and see His glory!

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." - Jn. 17:24

It is a wonderful and humbling thought to consider that Jesus wants you to be with Him!

*"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with the people, and **He will live with them**. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God."* - Revelation 21:3

*"We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be **away from the body and at home with the Lord**."* - 2 Corinthians 5:8

Challenge: *Can you (will you) be an agent of unity and peace?
Can you (will you) seek to be irenic?*

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