

A PRAYER LIKE NO OTHER

Part 2 - John 17:20-26

Jesus closes His final hours with His disciples with a prayer like no other (John 17). He begins by praying for Himself (1-5) – that He would be able to complete His redemptive work at Calvary. Then He prays for His 11 disciples (6-19) – that they will be protected and sanctified as they accept the challenge of taking the gospel to the world. He prays, finally (20-26) for all believers in every succeeding generation – that they may be unified in their expression of love in their generation.

ESSENTIAL UNITY (20 - 23)

- Not uniformity, but unity
- The “Trinity” model (21a) “just as you are in me, and I am in you”
- Father, Son, Holy Spirit – united in essence, diverse in expression
- Unity/Diversity points others to Jesus (21b)
- Unity/Diversity reflects the glory God (22)
- Unity/Diversity displays love of God (23)
- See “the vine and branches” metaphor (John 15), the “body” metaphor (1 Corinthians 12)

ETERNAL DESTINY (24)

- To be with the Father in heaven
- To see Jesus in the “glory” of the love the Father has for him before creation, at His incarnation (John 1:14), after His ascension (Hebrews 12:2)

ENDURING PROMISE (25, 26)

- A generational reality: “I have and will continue to make you known”
- Original promise
 - ... “I will build my church” (Matthew 6:18,19)
 - ... “Surely I am with you to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20)
 - ... “Love one another... by this shall all men know you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 11:34,35)

Think On These Things

Essential UNITY

Does my experience of church really reflect the unity in diversity of the Trinity?

Eternal DESTINY

How can I recognize the “glory” of Jesus’ presence and power in my life, in my church?

Enduring PROMISE

How can I help to fulfill the promise of generational blessing?