
SERMON NOTES February 21, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 17:20-26
Transcendent Unity
Pastor Mike

I. Jesus' call to _____ that transcends _____

a. Common _____ about Christian unity

b. Finding unity in our _____ in God

Unity should _____ our primary goal

_____ *should be our defining focus*

II. The _____ of Christian unity

We are one in our common...

a. _____ and identity in _____

b. God-given _____ and life _____

c. Status as recipients of God's _____

d. Commitment to pursue _____ with other Christians

III. Understanding _____ on our unity

Closing challenges

1. Is the conflict you have really _____

2. What are you doing right now to _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. It has become common for people to call for unity amongst not only those who claim to be Christians, but amongst all religious groups. Many cities celebrate “unified prayer services,” featuring people from all religious faiths. At the end of his great prayer for his followers in John 17, Jesus prayed “*that they may all be one, just as you, father, are in me, and I in you.*” Is this call to ecumenical unity among all faiths what Jesus was praying for?
 - a. What is the unity that Jesus was praying for among his followers? What are some possible wrong views of unity that are inconsistent with Jesus prayer?
 - b. In his message Pastor Mike said that unity should never be our primary goal. What did he mean by that, and how does that statement square with Jesus’ prayer for unity in John 17? If unity isn’t our primary goal, what should be our focus?
 - c. Is a lack of unity with another person always ultimately the result that one or both parties are focused on other things more than they are focused on God? Explain your answer.

2. In his message Pastor Mike pointed out four foundational sources for our unity or oneness within the church that Jesus teaches us about in his prayer.
 - a. How are we to be one in our name and in our common identity in God’s family? Practically, how should this lead us to unity and oneness?
 - b. How are we to be one in God-given purpose and mission in life? To what degree does that purpose define your life? Practically, how should this lead us to unity and oneness?
 - c. How are we to be one in our status as recipients of God’s gracious and glorious love? Practically, how should this awareness lead us to unity and oneness?
 - d. How are we to be one in our commitment to pursue oneness with other believers within the church? Practically, how should this lead us to unity and oneness?

3. In his message, Pastor Mike showed that Jesus did not pray that God would protect us from disunity, or even that we would be unified, but he prayed that we would be one.
 - a. What is the difference between not being dis-unified and being unified? How can we avoid conflict and disunity while not truly being unified?
 - b. What is the difference between being unified as a church, and been one with one another as Jesus describes in John 17? Can we be unified, but yet still not be one? If so how?
 - c. In John 17:22 Jesus asks the Father that we as a church “*may be one even as we are one.*” How can we be one in a way similar to how Jesus and the father are one?
 - d. Can you be one with others in the church as Jesus describes in John 17 without being involved in some kind of community group or service group where you regularly spend time with other believers? Explain your answer.
 - e. What are you doing right now to create and/or nurture relationships of oneness with other believers within our church? What can you do in the coming months to pursue these relationships?

4. If you are in conflict with, or feel a distance with another believer in our church, whatever the issue is at the core of that conflict, is it really more important to you than your relationship with Jesus? Is it really something more central to your identity than your name as a child of God?
 - a. If you are unwilling to work through the issue and pursue unity, and even oneness, is it because you are making the difference more important than what unites you?
 - b. If you have a conflict with someone else, what can you do this week to try to resolve that conflict?