



We're In This Thing Together

John 17: 20-26



John 17:20-23

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:24-26

“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. “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 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.”

Introduction: Dream Team

What is a team?

A Team is group or organization who come together and work as a team to achieve a common goal.

Background: John 17:20-26

Jesus prays for future believers - for you and me!
(vs.20-26) Primary emphasis: That they may be brought to complete unity...and there's a reason for this unity... to let the world know that the Father sent His Son, and that the Father would love the future disciples just as He has loved His Son.

What does Jesus pray for when He prays for His disciples?

That we may be one - one with each other, one with Jesus and God, one with ourselves. And that being one, we may have peace. Jesus says "the goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind, so they might be one heart and mind with us."

John 15:4-11 Jesus uses the analogy of Him being the vine and them the branches.

He tells them to “abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you except you abide in Me.”

Transition: How do we begin to strive for unity in a world so polarized and fractioned?

Where do we begin in a world where oneness is an interference? where do we begin? I think we begin with a good look at ourselves and understand first that there are 3 very basic realities concerning us and our need to unify: We are divided, we are distracted and we are distorted!

When we are in this thing together,
we can not be: Divided

Divided:

- 1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."
- Paul's appeal here is for harmony, not the elimination of diversity! He made it clear in the first 10 verses of this chapter that Christ should be the focus and source of this Christian unity.

Say this to yourself:

Oneness with others only happens in the Spirit! The flesh does not want it!

He told the church at Rome (16:17-18) the same thing

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly (**means they are slaves to their own lustful appetites**): and by good words and fair speeches, they deceive the hearts of the simple.”

They're under the influence of the master of deception! - Satan himself!

When in this thing together never be: Distracted

We live in the world and the world is full of what we will call, "logical distractions."

We Are Different

Jesus knew His mission would succeed; He knew He would die and be raised; He knew His spirit would equip the Disciples to carry His message; He knew people would be converted; He knew the church would be established!

Transition:

And so, because we are Divided, Distracted and Different, Jesus prayed for us....that we might be ONE as He was with His father. As difficult a task as it may seem, Christ teaches us that we are in this thing together.

Colossians 3:13-15 (NLT)

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect unity (harmony). And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Breaking Down Colossians 3:13-15

1. Make Room For Forgiveness
2. Remember That Christ Loves Us
3. Surround Each Other With Love
4. Let Peace Continue To Dwell In Each Other's Heart

Conclusion:

So as we move into this next level of service in God...remember...We're in this thing Together! As we proceed into our glorious future...a future for you...your children and your grandchildren...remember...we're in this thing together! As God sees us to move into this community...this city and this nation...remember...we're in this thing together!! It is God's purpose for all believer's to "attain to the unity of the faith."

Invitation