



The Life of Jesus (113)

Jesus' Last Prayers (7)

John 17:20-24

#1 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

The Purpose of Prayer: Unity

“[I pray] 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” (Jn 17:21)

Here, the reason the Lord prays for the unity of the church is so that **the world will believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sent by God.** How can a church truly reflect the oneness of God and His Son Jesus if it is divided?

The church is to be united in order to carry out the ministry of reconciliation that God has entrusted to the church.

Church unity is such a powerful testimony to the world that Jesus is the Son of God. If we're truly united in Jesus Christ, God's Son, the world will be attracted to the kind of unity that they've never seen and will know and believe in Him.

#2 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

But how can we be united? It is not certainly easy for the church to be united because its members come from different social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.

But, in Jesus' prayer, we find three things through which we may achieve unity in the church.

1) To Be in the Triune God

First, we can be united when we're in the one true God by faith. What brings believers together is our common faith in God.

“All of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. **May they also be in us...**” (Jn 17:21)

Here, we find a very special kind of relationship Jesus has with God the Father. Their relationship is so close and intimate it's like they are inside each other.

God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. Likewise, God the Spirit is in God the Father and God the Son. That's why we don't say we believe in three Gods, but one true God.

#3 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

1) To Be in the Triune God

The unity of the triune God is so amazing that it is nearly impossible for us to fully comprehend.

That's what unites us despite our differences. Because we believe in one true God who reveals Himself in three persons, **we can also be one when we're in the triune God.**

Only then, can we truly show the world who our God is because **our oneness and unity will reflect the nature of oneness and unity of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.**

Jesus doesn't encourage us to be united for unity's sake. What He wants to see happen is not just our oneness itself, but that **non-believers around us can see our unity and believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God** whom God sent from heaven. That's one of the important ways we can show who God truly is to those around us and lead them to faith in the Son of God.

If we're really close to each other but don't go out into the world, we are going in the wrong direction.

#4 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

2) To Seek the Glory of God

We can be united as we seek the same thing together—the glory of God.

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one” (Jn 17:22)

There are many ways we can attain oneness in a community, but one of the most efficient ways is for members in the same community to seek a common goal.

In the same way, Christians can be united as we work together toward the same goal. And that goal is saving people from their sins and building the eternal kingdom of God on earth.

We will be united in God's glory as we seek His glory and strive to reveal it in our lives. Then, we can truly glorify our heavenly Father through our unity.

#5 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

2) To Seek the Glory of God

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.”

(2Co 4:6)

What sin does in our lives is to separate us from God so that we can't see His glory—how worthy He is—so that we may not believe in Him. But, **Jesus came to the world as the light of the world.** He came to us who lived in darkness and enlightened our hearts with the light of the glory of God.

God dispelled the darkness and sin in our hearts with His glory and filled them with His light through Jesus Christ. Now, we're reconciled with God through Jesus Christ and are able to see how holy, worthy, and glorious He is.

And those who really see and experience God's glory can't help but live for the glory of God. That's the life we're to live as Christians. **We're sent into the world as the light of the world who reveals God's glory in our lives.**

#6 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

2) To Seek the Glory of God

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **In the same way, let your light shine before others,** that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Mt 5:14-16)

This is the purpose of God putting us in the world. There are so many people out there who live in darkness without even realizing it because they haven't seen the light of Jesus. **Who will go to them and shine the light of Jesus on them?**

When we seek to glorify God together, we'll be united in His glory. But, in order for us to do so, **we must be filled with His glory.** That's why we need to be diligent in reading the Bible and praying because knowing God's glory comes from knowing who He is.

#7 Jesus' Prayer for All Believers

2) To Seek the Glory of God

The preacher John Piper once said, “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.”

All people on earth live for satisfaction. But the problem is that they seek their satisfaction from things that can't truly satisfy them.

But when we seek God, He satisfies our souls and fills them with His glory. And when we're filled with His glory, we won't seek anything else because we know how valuable it is compared to everything we have on earth.

Then, we'll live for the glory of God and He will be glorified in our lives.

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Rm 15:5-6)

Memory Verses

“[I pray] 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” (Jn 17:21) (1)

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called” (Eph 4:3-4) (1)

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one” (Jn 17:22) (1)

“Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” (2Co 4:6) (1)

“May the God… give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rm 15:5-6) (2)

Reflection Questions

1. Have you felt united with others in the church? What gave you a sense of unity?
2. Why do you think it is important for Christians to be united, especially when it comes to making God known to the world?
3. How do you think church members can be united? What did Jesus say about it in today's passage? What are some more ways to reach oneness in God?