

10 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Series on prayer – week 3

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you prayed for a friend or family member to be born again, and Jesus answered your prayer?
2. True or false; Jesus prayed for you in John 17:20, to believe in Him? (True)
3. What does Jesus pray for in John 17:21? (For unity, that we would be one as God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are One).
4. What does John 17:22 reveal about Jesus' heart and purpose? (He lives for the glory of the Father, and encourages us to do the same).

 Let's go deeper

5. Where does unity start according to John 17:24; (Unity starts with God at the center, God first. Jesus prays; "I and the Father are One.").
6. What did Jesus mean in John 17:24; that He exists before the foundation of the world? (He has no beginning or end, He is eternal).
7. Which Old Testament prophet reveals a glimpse of the glory Jesus had before the foundation of the world? (The prophet Isaiah).
8. What is the last thing Jesus ask the Father to do in John 17:25 – 26? (That the love with which He loved Jesus, may be in His followers).

 Let's apply this

9. Jesus prayed for unity; oneness and unbelievers:
- Unity is God at the centre, God first
 - Unity is the result of loving humble service
 - Unity is power for a cause of a mission

As we enter 2021, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you which of the above or other areas to surrender to Him?

SUMMARY:

- Jesus prays for unity; oneness and unbelievers

Read: John 17:20 – 26.

v.20; Jesus is getting ready to die so that people can be forgiven and He is looking down the corridor of history and He is praying for you – you are on Jesus's heart and mind as He go to the cross.

v.21; Jesus prays for unity. And in **v.22;** Jesus is living for the glory of the Father and He wants you and I to live for the glory of the Father.

v.23; Jesus is praying for unity and unity starts with God. Jesus is saying that He and the Father are One, He is talking about the relational nature of God. The Trinitarian God of the bible is by nature relational. The Father, Son and Spirit do everything together, they love and serve one another, they are relational and conversational.

What unity is not? Unity is not uniformity, not everybody is the same, God the Father, Son and Spirit are distinct persons, but they are One. They have unity not uniformity. In a prison you get uniformity, the same uniform, schedule and meals.

Unity is relational not organizational. Relationships (people) are more important than programs, position or possessions.

What is unity? Unity is God at the center, God first – Jesus prays in **v.24;** and what He is saying is that His relationship with the Father is His first and highest priority.

Unity is the result of loving, humble service - Love is acts of service, Jesus came to serve and He is doing so humbly, so the key to unity is loving humble service.

Unity is power for a cause or a mission - When people pull together with God's vision it multiplies like the five loaves and two fish in the little boy's hands that he gave to Jesus and thousands of people are served and blessed. That is the power of unity, that is Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17, and Jesus is praying in an upper room that is borrowed with eleven of His disciple's present, and the big idea is that they have unity around the will of God, they are following the leadership of Jesus, and they are praying for the opportunities that God would give them.

v.24; Jesus says that He exists before the foundation of the world. He is without beginning or end, He is eternal God and He lived in glory. Jesus prays; "glorify me with the glory that I had before the foundation of the world." And Isaiah 6 reveals it. And in **John 12:41;** John said; "Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him." Isaiah saw Jesus that's what we learn in John 12.

v.25 – 26; Jesus' last words in His prayer, is the glory of God manifested in love.