

19 March

TOPIC: Gospel of John – week 36



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 centre, 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. **Genesis 11:6**; and the Lord said, behold, **they are one people**, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And **nothing** that they propose to do **will be impossible for them**.
- Is God at the centre of your life, marriage, or family?
 - If you are married, how can you serve your spouse better?
 - How can you align yourself to God's vision and mission of making disciples of all nations (see Matthew 16:16 – 19 and Ephesians 3:10).

SUMMARY:

Gospel of John: Week 36 (Jesus prays for believers).

Read: John 17:20 – 26

v.20; Jesus is getting ready to die so that people can be forgiven 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; Unity starts with God and the way it is protected and preserved is with a principle called singular headship and plural leadership. In the trinity; the Father, Son and Spirit are plural (team) leadership, they make decisions together, they do everything together, but the head is God the Father – See 1 Corinthians 11:3.

In **John 17:1**, we read that Jesus looked up to heaven and said Father. In looking up what Jesus is revealing is that He is under the authority of God the Father and in praying to God the Father, He is praying to the authority that is over Him.

What happens when God's government and order is rejected or rebelled against? Jesus says in **Luke 10:18**; I saw satan fall like lightning from heaven. Division comes down with the demonic. If satan had not rebelled there would not have been rebellion. Had satan not bring rebellion down with him there would not be rebellion on the earth today.

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 - The reason Jesus is praying for unity is because there is power in unity. Genesis 11, serves as an example of people working together for the cause of unity, they have a shared cause and mission, but it is ungodly, at a place called Babel. The principle is the power of unity, when a husband and wife or a father and mother or believers are unified with God at the center, loving and serving one another in humility nothing will be impossible for them.



Break the ice

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