



The Fight for Our Unity

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"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that they may all be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. The glory that You

have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me."

John 17:20-23 (NIV)

Q—Has Jesus' prayer been answered?

Sermon in a Sentence: Let's be the answer to Jesus' prayer for unity by being one.

"One" = unique, rare or whole

⇒ **Oneness doesn't mean** _____.

1 Corinthians 12:12–14 (NIV)

There are different kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS but the same spirit gives them. There are different WAYS OF SERVING, but the same Lord is served. There are different ABILITIES to perform service, but the same God gives ability to every one for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown IN SOME WAY in each one, for the good of all. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (GNT – emphasis added)

⇒ **Oneness is Spirit** _____.

John 17:22-23a (NIV)

Q—Who can you invite into your circle this week?

⇒ **Oneness** _____ **outsiders over.**

John 17:23b (NIV) ; John 13:34–35 (NIV)

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

- unknown

NEXTsteps : How are you going to answer Jesus' prayer for oneness this week?

ANSWER KEY: uniformity, empowered, wins



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *The Win in Being One*

Warm Up: What was the best team you were part of, and why was it successful?

Sermon Response: What is a "take-away" you received from Sunday's message?

Read Together: John 17:20-26

Discuss Together:

- These verses are part of a longer prayer that Jesus prays. Who are the "those" he is referring to and what do you suppose is the meaning of "their message" (verse 20)?
- How does it make you feel, knowing that Jesus prayed back then with us in mind today?
- What is Jesus' central desire for us? What does it mean to be "one" like The Father and Jesus are (verse 21)?
- How can the world believe through our "oneness"?
- Look at verse 22. Another word for "glory" is "honor" or "approval." How does that help us be one and in complete unity?
- What is the difference between unity and uniformity?
- Why is it vital that we express our diversity, and how can it actually contribute to unity? See 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 12 for help.
- What is the result of the oneness Jesus desires, according to the last part of verse 23 and why would this be effective in fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission?
- As the Father is made known through Christ, how is Christ made known through us?
- How can love be our motive and method of making Christ known?
- Overall, how well have we answered Jesus' "oneness" prayer? How can we improve as a group or local church?
- What do you envision could happen as the result if we were more effective through greater unity?
- What ways can we pray as Jesus prayed for this?

Prayer: Take time pray for opportunities God is leading you to and other needs you have. Also, don't forget to share praises and updates on answered prayers!