

Discussion Questions

April 10, 2022

God with Us: Our Lives Empowered by His Presence



(If short on time, consider prioritizing question 6)

1. Read John 17:20-23

From verse 20, who is Jesus praying for?

What is the emphasis of Jesus's prayer?

Why do you think Jesus emphasizes these things in His final prayer with His Disciples?

2. Read Galatians 5:19-21

What stands out to you most in this list?

Why would Paul place aspects of disunity in the same category as the extreme and heinous acts in this passage?

Discuss ways we as Christians tend to downplay the offensiveness of some of these.

3. What does it practically look like for Christians to live out Trinitarian Unity, to be as united to one another as the Father & the Son, as described in John 17:21-23?

4. Discuss: In what ways has our unity as Christians been tested in the last two years?

5. According to Jesus, why must we strive so hard to ensure there is no dissension or division among us?

6. Imagine what it would look like for us as a church to be living out Jesus' longing that the world is drawn to Him through how well we love one another. What practical part could you play in making His vision for our church a reality?



I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

John 17:20-23

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship."

AW Tozer, The Pursuit of God

There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

Proverbs 6:16–19

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19–21

The church is never more than a single generation from extinction. All it takes is for a single generation to not hand the word forward."

NT Wright

After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the Lord or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel. The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight and served the images of Baal. They abandoned the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods.

Judges 2:10-12

..that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.

John 17:21

..that they may be one even as we are one.

John 17:22a

I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one..

John 17:23a

..that they may be one, even as we are one.

John 17:11b

So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

Matthew 5:23–24

I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.

John 13:34–35

Divisions in the church breed atheism in the world.

Thomas Manton (1620-1677)

The players that play on this football team will play for the name on the side of the helmet and not the name on the back of the jersey.

Herman Edwards - Arizona State Head Coach

Too many people live as though affirming a biblical truth is equivalent to having it in reality. Seminary can teach you how to memorize a menu, but that doesn't ensure you'll ever taste the food.

Francis Chan

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

Marco Antonio de Dominis - 1617

Christ's prayer for unity does not mean we all should be the same, though many Christians mistakenly assume that. Too many think other believers should be just like them—carry the same Bible, read the same books, promote the same styles, educate their children in the same way, have the same likes and dislikes. That would be uniformity, not unity. We are not called to be Christian clones. In fact, the insistence that others be just like us is one of the most disunifying forces in the church of Jesus Christ. It [creates] a judgmental inflexibility that hurls people away from the church with deadly force.

One of the gospel's glories is that it [emphasizes] our individuality even while bringing us into unity. That unity without uniformity is implicit in Paul teaching on spiritual gifts.

"Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (1 Corinthians 12:4–6)"

Dr Kent Hughes

