



## **BETTER TOGETHER**

### **“Jesus Prays for Radical Unity”**

**John 17:20-23**

**Conflict is inevitable but combat is optional!**

The cry of Jesus for his church is that we would exude authentic and radical unity!

**Christian unity is NOT inter-faith or even inter-denominational unity.**

**Christian unity is not uniformity.**

**Christian unity is not unanimity on every doctrine.**

**(Essential truths, Important, but non-saving, truths and Interesting, but not essential or important matters)**

#### **Application Questions**

- Have you struggled on the personal level with where to draw lines of fellowship? How did you sort through the issues?
- How do we determine where to draw doctrinal lines for church unity without becoming divisive?
- How do we determine which doctrines are essential and which are important, but not essential? What criteria apply?

The early Fathers had a great motto: “In essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty and in all things charity.”  
Do you think this motto is still useful today?

**Unity is rooted in our participation in the Trinitarian Dance...V. 20-21**

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 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.”

Are you ready to enter the Divine dance of the Trinity and so, bring God’s Compassion to your relationships, community, and world? What would that look like for you?

**Unity is expanded through the impartation of God’s glory...V. 22-23a.**

“I have **given them** the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me so that they may be brought to **complete unity.**”



In what ways does the glory of God radiate through your life? How could that become more normal for you?

**Unity is advanced by engagement in God's Mission...V. 23b.**

*"Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

***"We need God to revive our concern for the destiny of unbelievers. It is when we care about them enough that we will put aside our differences to reach them together."*** Francis Chan

How have you experienced this in your life?

How does the fact that the Father loves you infinitely, eternally, and intimately motivate you to what to share that love with others?

Unity is obtained from God but maintain by us.

Ask God to fill you with the fullness of the unity-creating Holy Spirit.

Ask God to help you focus on what unites us in Christ, not what divides us.

Ask God to reveal anything in your life that is causing division in the church, your family, or your marriage and make it right. As far as it depends on you be at peace with all people.

Ask God to release a supernatural unity in our church that points people to Jesus Christ.

Prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, help us to be the body you have created us and called us, and you have prayed for us to be, so that the world might know and believe who you are. God, we pray that you would help us to pursue unity with each other, that you would help us to love one another, care for one another, lift up one another, speak kindly, tenderly to one another, about one another in ways that build up one another. Father, we ask that you give us love for the world and love for one another together in this way. God help us, we pray, each of us individually, to play our part in cultivating and maintaining this unity that you prayed for Jesus. And we pray that it be reality in ever-increasing measure in and through our lives as your church, according to Jesus' words that he prayed, we pray. Amen."*