

A DYING MAN'S REQUEST

John 17:20-26

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INTRODUCTION: JESUS' FINAL REQUEST

People go to great lengths to fulfill the wishes of a dying man.

In Jesus' final prayer before His execution, He makes four requests.

Four dying requests, as it were.

1. Glorify Me, v. 1
2. Protect my disciples, v. 11
3. Sanctify them, v. 17
4. Make them one, v. 21

There are four distinct points in this last part of Jesus' prayer, but they all come together to form one request, "make them one."

1. Make them one. v. 21
2. Let them experience my glory. V. 22

Glory

an attribute or quality of someone or something

3. Bring them to where I am. V. 24
4. Let them have the love we share. V. 26

Proposition: God desires that His people be one so that we can be and do in Christ to our fullest potential.

? What did Jesus mean by oneness?

I. UNDERSTANDING ONENESS

A. CONNECTION TO CHRIST

Acts 4:32a

And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul...

1 Corinthians 6

? What did the apostles mean by church unity?

B. NOT SO MUCH ORGANIZATIONAL UNITY

Acts 2:44

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

C. NOT SO MUCH IDEALOGICAL UNITY

Ephesians 4:13, 14; Romans 14:5-13

D. SAME LOVE

When we experience the sacrificial love of Christ and express the sacrificial love of Christ we will be united.

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

E. TOGETHER SPIRITEDNESS

F. SAME MIND *ὁμόφρονες*,

1 Peter 3:8

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

G. HUMBLE MIND Ταπεινόφρονες

1 Peter 3:8.

This word refers to such a lowliness as was considered disgraceful.

Romans 12:16

Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

H. A POTENTIAL UNITY

Ephesians 4:1-6

II. IMPLICATIONS OF UNITY

In John 17, we see four implications of unity.

A. EVANGELISM,

1. That The World May Believe, v 21
2. That The World May Know, v. 23

B. COMPLETENESS/MATURITY, V. 23

Perfected in unity doesn't describe the type of unity, but the result of unity.

Ephesians 4:13

until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

C. KNOWING THE GLORY OF GOD, VV. 22,

? How many people here understand how the Trinity works?

D. ETERNAL CONNECTION TO CHRIST, VV. 24, 26

CONCLUSION: WHY SO MUCH DIVISION?

? Why don't we see the unity for which Jesus prayed?

1. Division because of fleshliness

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

2. Division because of immaturity

Ephesians 4:13

3. Division Out of Necessity

1 Corinthians 11:19

For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

Titus 3:9-11

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

2 Timothy 3:5

holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

APPLICATION:

Preserve unity in the bond of peace.