

WORKOUT

JOHN 17:20-26

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PONDER

Read all of John chapter 17, focusing on verses 20-26.

- Ponder the unity and union of the Father and the Son. While they are distinct persons of the Trinity, they are one (10:30).
 - Why is this significant for how we understand and think about Jesus? What is the danger of the world thinking it can separate Jesus from the Father?
 - How might we fall prey to this same temptation?
- How does the concept of God's unity inform how we understand Jesus's command, "abide in me" (15:4)?
- What does it mean that Jesus gives His followers unity just as the Father and Son have unity (17:21-23)?
 - Read and consider Ephesians 4:1-6. Keep in mind that unity is not the same as uniformity: we have different gifts (1 Corinthians 12) and different strengths, personalities, and experiences.
- What is the purpose of the Jesus followers' unity (17:21, 23)?
 - Jesus says that He unites His followers "so that the world may believe" (17:21). How might we be tempted to misunderstand the purpose of this unity? In our sin, how might we be tempted to twist it for our selfish desires or worldly gain?
 - How should this change the way we view our brothers and sisters in Christ?

PRAY

Pray Holistically

Read and pray John 17:20-23. Pray that our church would be unified for the sake of the world knowing God and having eternal life in Him.

- Father, your Word says just as you and the Son are one, those who believe in Jesus will be one. May this be true of me and the brothers and sisters in Christ that you have placed me around. Guard us from sin and pride that would cause division; unite our hearts to fear your name (Psalm 86:11). Let our unity be not merely for unity's sake, but so the world would see our love for one another and know that we are your disciples (John 13:34). By your Spirit, as we live in imitation of Christ, open the eyes of the world to see and know you.

Pray Personally

Read Philippians 2:1-4 and pray in confession of your sin that leads you to prideful self-centeredness and that causes division among your brothers and sisters in Christ.

PRACTICE

Jesus has authority to unite His followers.

Remember John 15:12-25, as a collective group of Jesus followers, we are set apart from the world and promised that the world will hate us. In the midst of this, we are commanded to love one another.

- Read Romans 12:9-16 and consider the opportunities in front of you to love your brothers and sisters in Christ with brotherly affection (Romans 12:10).
 - What would it look like this week to outdo one another in showing honor? To contribute to others' needs? To show hospitality? To live in harmony?
- Read Philippians 2:1-4 and consider the relationship between counting others as more significant than yourself and our unity (Philippians 2:2).
 - What opportunities do you have this week to look out for the interests of others and count others as more significant than yourself?

Remember that Jesus followers' unity is not ultimately to serve the Jesus follower, but is for the purpose of the world knowing Jesus.

- Look for opportunities to proclaim this purpose to those around you. Why would you act this way towards those in the church? Why would you seek to lay down your own preferences to serve them? Use these opportunities to make much of Jesus. (1 Peter 3:15)
- Every day, pray for the Spirit to open the eyes of the blind, that by our love for one another, they would come to see and have eternal life in Jesus.