That They May Be One

Jonathan Banning · John 17:1–21

INTRODUCTION

- Unity is not hard to find. But what is rare is not unity itself, but a commitment to unity.
- When it comes to worldly things, true unity doesn't really matter. But when it comes to spiritual things, unity is vital.
- When it comes to the church, the unity of believers is one of the deepest desires of Jesus' heart.

1 That They May Be One Even as We Are

John 17:11; John 17:1–5; John 17:6–10

- Holy Father, keep them in your name, the name which you have given me, that they may be one as we are.
- He wants his church to experience the same kind of unity that we find within the Trinity.
- There is this inseparable bond that you see between the Father and the Son and the Spirit.
- The Father, Son, and Spirit are absolutely dedicated to their purpose.
- There is not a trace of selfishness in God.
- In true unity, what you witness is the death of the self.

2 Eliminate All Traces of Worldliness

John 17:13–16; Ephesians 2:1–3; Colossians 3:12–15

- If we're going to keep that kind of unity, we need to make sure that we eliminate all traces of worldliness.
- They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
- When we tolerate worldliness in our lives, we are undermining the very basis of our unity.
- In true unity, you witness the death of the self, but in worldliness, what you witness is the exaltation of the self.
- Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

3 Champion the Truth

John 17:17–19; Colossians 1:9–12; Romans 14:19–21

- Sanctify them, set them apart in your truth. Your word is truth.
- God's truth is the only thing that really holds us together.
- His truth doesn't belong to me, and my opinion doesn't make it fact.
- God's truth is not a tool to win an argument or advance a personal agenda.
- But the short-term answer to unity is radical sacrifice.

4 Unity Enhances Our Testimony

John 17:20–21

- That they may all be one, even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.
- The unity of his church, the unity of his disciples is one of the greatest testimonies to the work of God and Jesus in the Holy Spirit.
- Does that testimony matter more than some worldly differences we may have?

5 Pray for That Kind of Unity

- If we're going to have that kind of unity, we need to pray for that kind of unity.
- We forget that what we're reading is a prayer.
- Without God's help, we never would have been able to make a family like this.

THE CHALLENGE

It is of utmost importance that we pray together and seek his supernatural power to help us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace to help us be united with one another.

MY NOTES