

The Prayer for Unity

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 17:20-26.

B. This prayer meeting encompasses the entire age in which the whole world and we live.

II. In this prayer of Jesus, there are the elements of a military campaign involving the Trinity.

A. The great objective is belief that the Father has sent Jesus.

1. God's entire redemptive plan is targeted at the world. (John 3:16)

2. Christians are not here to change the world or save it--the church is left to convince the world that Jesus Christ is the authentic voice of God.

3. Jesus will consequently be accepted or rejected.

B. God's strategy: that the believers may be one with another and with God.

1. This does not depend upon us but on God.

2. The union of the World Council of Churches is threatening the unit of some of the churches.

a. Unity is sharing of life.

b. Unity is to be the evangelistic thrust of a warm family circle found in Christian fellowship.

3. The secret: unity is visible when Christians love one another.

a. World evangelization must start with love for one another.

b. Essentials of Christian love.

1) Mutual contact.

2) A sense of concern.

3) Contribution.

c. The Lord helps us to love.

Application questions:

1. How can organizational unity between churches have a negative doctrinal effect?

2. What does the Father's sending of Jesus tell us about who Jesus is? Explain.

3. How can you contribute to true unity in your own congregation? What are some concrete things that you can do to bring people closer together?
