



John 17: 20-23 – (NLT)

²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me because of their testimony. ²¹ My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.

²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are—²³ I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one. Then the world will know that you sent me and will understand that you love them as much as you love me

Matt 6:10: (NLT) May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

UNITY Vision Foundation

In the following verses Jesus teaches us how to pray. The instructions Jesus gives us are instructions to pray for the Kingdom here on earth to be the very same as the Kingdom in heaven:

Matt 6:9-11

9"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.** Give us today our daily bread.

The question to address would be; where is the “Kingdom” today? When Jesus ascended into heaven He left His Holy Spirit to reside in the Kingdom and to instruct those who follow Him, His disciples. There is no doubt that Jesus’ desire is that we, the children of God, seek out after the very same harmony that is taking place in heaven. This harmony in heaven is a oneness of not only God our Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, but also all of the angels and all those who reside with them. How does this, the most popular prayer ever prayed, apply to our lives in a practical and applicable way? When we seek after the oneness of the trinity and the likeness of our Lord Jesus, we are seeking after the very will and heart of God. Is this our prayer and passion as children of God? Are we seeking after this harmony of oneness?

Jesus went on further in a prayer plea to our Father:

John 17:20-26

20"My prayer is not for them alone.(The Disciples) I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21 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.** ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. **May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.** ²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

The setting was that Jesus was praying for his disciples prior to His ascension that they “be one” as He and the Father are one. This “oneness” is a mystery that many do not understand nor unfortunately seek after the meaning. The oneness of Jesus and God is a relationship that is harmonious in all aspects. This is the very same oneness that our Lord Jesus is pleading for in this prayer.

The reason that we should seek after this oneness is “ so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (verse 22)

The greatest detriment to the witness and power of the church of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be of His family and to allow division within His church.

UNITY VISION

The forwarding is the vision of the UNITY group which is also no doubt the very vision of God for His people:

Explanation of our UNITY effort:

God is a triune unified God; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three have worked in harmony throughout eternity in working out a plan for humanity to be unified with them. This plan will not be changed in any way regardless of the foe as it will be just as our Father has planned many years ago for His people. He made a “provision” of UNITY for His children through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ and His atoning blood that was shed on Calvary. All who accept Jesus as their own personal Savior and follow after Him will be unified with the triune God for eternity. This, God’s purpose and heart, is the major reason for this effort.

Co-mmunity vision effort:

We believe that our Lord has given us, His family, a co-mission to serve together in our co-mmunities that we are in:

Matt 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.

Practical applications:

Our Lord has saved us by His grace and not of our works? Yes, this is true but the message goes on that He has saved us “for good works” that He has prepared for us:

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith and not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not a result f works, so that no one may boast. **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

Many times we have stressed the “saved by grace” truth and have discounted the “created for good works” part of the truth which is an invaluable truth of experience for all followers of Christ. Our hope is that we can encourage each other in the community to keep our eyes and ears open for potential areas that we can serve together in these good works. Do we see these “good works?”

The church divided:

Our Lord has given us a very detailed description of how the church body can not function when it is divided:

1Cor 12:12-26:

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*?

²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, ²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

The vision of the UNITY Co-Mission:

We believe our Co-Mission, in the vision of God for His people, is found in our common UNITY in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that as we follow our Lord Jesus’ plea to be unified together in the work of the Kingdom of God, that we will become stronger and more effective in the works our Lord has prepared for us to serve in. We do believe that these mighty works can be accomplished in our community through many hands, feet, and hearts being moved in the same direction and for common purposes. We further believe that as we serve in UNITY as Christ followers in our community that we will become stronger and more effective witnesses. We do believe that in the very same way as the pyramids were built some thousands of years prior by the unity of many, that we too can not only accomplish great works in our Kingdom but also break down some great walls that have been established over many years.

God bless His people as we, together in UNITY, seek after His heart,
Chuck Ehl

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