

Final Words - First
Words
John 17

Jesus' Earthly Life Is Coming To An End.

He is deeply concerned for his disciples and the future of the work that he has begun in them. So.....

HE PRAYS!


A Prayer About Priorities

What Does He NOT Pray About?

We Have Too Often Ignored
Jesus' Priority Both In Prayer
And Practice.

It Has had Devastating
Effects On The Kingdom.

What DOES He Pray About?



Prays for Himself
(vv. 1-5)

Prays for His Current Disciples
(vv.6-19)

Prays for Future Disciples
(vv.20-23a)

Prays for the Unbelieving World
(vv.23b-26)

A Unity Based on Love

A LOVE relationship.

The LOVE between the Father and
the Son.

As we are United to Son, we become
part of the same LOVE relationship. ₈

There Is Awesome Power In Unity!

For Evil or Good

WWII - Nazis spread across Europe

The Allies - Great Britain, United

States, Russia

Terrorism: Islamic and Home Grown

Unity's Power For Evil

Genesis 11:1-9 (ESV)

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words... Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves... *And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.*"

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech."...Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

The Confusion Continues. We've Been Terrible At Unity!

- Churches of Christ have shrunk 5% since 2016.
- We've been losing our teens at an alarming rate.
- We aren't reaching the under 40 group.
- Our world is becoming more secular.
- Racism that kept blacks and whites from worshipping together for well over 100 years is still rampant.

Historically, We Started With The Right Spirit.

- In the 19th century the fathers of the Restoration Movement proclaimed:
 - In Essentials, Unity
 - In Non-Essentials, Liberty
 - In All Things, Love
- We must recapture that spirit through learning to love in all things.

There's A Way To Find Unity.
(We've Tried Uniformity.)
Let's Try Jesus' Way.

Love for one another
Love for the Unbelieving World
Love for our Enemies

"A new ("kainos") command I give you:
Love one another. As I have loved you, so
you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all
men will know that you are my disciples, if
you love one another."

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command... ¹⁷ This is my command: Love each other. John 15:12-14, 17 (NIV)

Let no debt remain outstanding, except
the continuing debt to love one another,
for he who loves his fellowman has
fulfilled the law. Romans 13:8 (NIV)

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)

Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 1
Thessalonians 4:9 (NIV)

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, **love one another deeply, from the heart.** 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

This is the message you heard from the beginning: **We should love one another.** 1 John 3:11 (NIV)

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and **to love one another as he commanded us.** 1 John 3:23 (NIV)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 1 John 4:7, 11-12

(NIV)

Jesus Prayer Should Be Our Priority

When the lonely, desperate, confused and
hopeless people of this world visit church,
they are not looking for a FIGHT.

They are looking for a FAMILY.

They are looking for a place to be LOVED.

A Call to "Arms"!!

The "Arms" of Love.

LOVE WINS!

Jesus Said So!