

John 17:20-26, Christ Prays That The Church Would Be One

The last few Sundays: Christ first prayed that he would be glorified (17:1-5), then prayed for the disciples to be kept (17:6-19), and now he prays that the Church would be One (17:20-26).

Today: Christ Prays That The Church Would be One.

There are two types of oneness (unity) we experience:

- Positional Unity: The unity we currently have since we are all “in Christ.”
 - Eph. 4:3: “Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
- Practical Unity: The unity that grows as we mature in Christ.
 - Eph. 4:13: “Until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”

The Seven Doctrinal Essentials (T.L.C.C.S.C.S.)

1. The Trinity

- a. Jn. 14:6: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **No one** comes to the Father except through me.”
- b. Mt. 10:33: “Whoever **denies me** before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

2. The spiritual Lostness of the human race

- a. Rom. 3:23: “For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- b. Rom. 6:23a: “For the wages of sin is **death**.”
- c. 1 Jn. 1:8: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and **the truth is not in us.**”

3. Christ’s full deity & humanity (virgin birth included)

- a. To pay for man’s sin, he must be God. Ps. 49:7-9: “Truly **no man** can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can **never suffice**, that he should live on forever and never see the pit.”
- b. To pay for man’s sin, he must be man. Heb. 2:14-17: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things**, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore **he had to be made like his brothers in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

4. Christ's substitutionary atonement & bodily resurrection
 - a. Rom. 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved."
 - b. 1 Cor. 15:1-4: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, **if you hold fast to the word I preached to you**—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."
5. Salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
 - a. Rom. 11:6: "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; **otherwise grace would no longer be grace**."
 - b. Gal. 1:9: "As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be **accursed**."
 - c. Gal. 2:21: "I do not nullify the grace of God, for **if righteousness were through the law**, then Christ died for no purpose."
 - d. Eph. 2:8-9: "For by grace you have **been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
6. Christ's physical return (our physical resurrection included)
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:16-17: "For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, **your faith is futile and you are still in your sins**."
 - b. Heb. 9:28: "Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin **but to save those** who are eagerly waiting for him."
7. The Scriptures are authoritative, inerrant, and God-breathed
 - a. Pr. 30:5-6, "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. **Do not add to his words**, lest he rebuke you & you be found a liar."
 - b. 2 Tim. 3:16-17, "All Scripture is **breathed out by God** & profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

"In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity" – Rupertus Meldenius

17:22 “The glory that you have given me I have given to them” – What is this glory?

Options:

1. Augustine (4th century): the heavenly glory and immortality of Christ
 2. Gregory of Nyssa (4th century): the Holy Spirit
 3. Ulrich Zwingli (16th century): the power to work miracles
- Leon Morris: “Just as His true glory was to follow the path of lowly service culminating in the cross, so for them the true glory lay in the path of lowly service wherever it might lead them.” For Christ as well as for us, the way of the cross is the way of glory.
 - D. A. Carson: “We must never think of our cross as our penalty; we must think of it as our glory. The harder the task we give a student, or a craftsman, or a surgeon, the more we honor him ... So when it is hard to be a Christian, we must regard it as our glory, as our honor given to us by God.”

The Oneness (unity) of the Church portrayed in church history:

- AD 203: North African Believers Perpetua and Felicity
- AD 432: British Believer Patrick
- AD 1099: French Believer Godfrey of Bouillon
- AD 1816: Chinese Believer Liang Fa