

Growing Closer to God

April 11, 2021

John 17:20-26

You can't get any closer to God than being one with Jesus and His followers.

You can't get any further from God than being at odds with Jesus and His followers.

1. Jesus' prayer for us = oneness, not **sameness** (20-23)
 - a. Unity like that shared between the Father and Son
 - Speaking His words (14:10, 24; also 1 Pet. 4:11)
 - Doing His **works** (5:19; 10:37-38)
 - **Bearing** His fruit (15:4-5)
 - b. Unity of purpose among believers
 - Revealing the truth of Jesus' **sent**-ness (3:17)
 - **Relaying** His glory "*full of grace and truth*" (1:14)
 - Relaxing in the **Father's** love for His own
2. Jesus' will expressed to the Father "*I want for them . . .*" (24)
 - a. To be with Jesus in His **uninterrupted** presence
 - b. To see the **unfiltered** glory of the Son (17:5)
3. Jesus' **ongoing** ministry (25-26)
 - a. He "*made known*" the Father to His disciples, not the world
 - b. The two-fold ongoing, ever growing ministry of His Spirit
 - The Father loves you _____ He loves Jesus *less than / **as much as** / more than* (circle one)
 - Jesus is closer to you than your **skin**

On Your Own (better with others)

1. Of all the things that Jesus could have prayed for His followers, why do you think He focused on unity?
2. What obstacles would our church have to overcome in order to demonstrate the visible unity that Jesus prayed for?
3. READ Rom. 15:5-7. How can we cause others to praise God?
4. How can we be one and truly love fellow believers when at times, correction and rebuke is our responsibility as Christians?
5. READ Ephesians 4:1-6. Is the "*unity of the Spirit*" something others can see—or is it invisible, an attitude of heart and mind?
6. *agree/disagree*
It is unfair of the world to judge Jesus' ministry by the unity that they see in our church.
7. Is unity the goal or a by-product of lifting up Jesus above our individual preferences, tastes and desires?