

## Christ Prays for Us > John 17:20-26

**17:20-23** *God's unity.* It is striking how many times Jesus speaks of unity, both throughout the gospels and throughout this prayer. As we come to the end, Christ's concern – his prayer request – is that we would have unity. A unity with one another that is based upon our unity with God.

**17:24-26** *God's love.* Our unity flows forth from the secure foundation of God's love: because we have first been loved so perfectly and wonderfully by him, we can now love one another and love those whom the Lord sends us out to.

**Background:** John 17 comes at the very end of what has been called the "farewell discourse." These are Christ's final teachings to the disciples before his arrest and death. This last part of the prayer shifts from praying for the first disciples to praying for future disciples – praying for us and those who will follow after us!

**The Point:** Christ's prayer for you and I is that we would have unity with one another and know with confidence of the love that God has for us.

**Head:** Unity and love aren't just "nice to have," they are essential for our disciple-making mission.

**Heart:** You as a Christian – and we as a church – are loved by the Lord. Let that truth encourage you constantly.

**Hands:** What will you do to bring about greater unity in Christ's church? What will you keep from doing?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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