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- Message Outline**
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Message Outline

United: One Name

John 17:1-11

Matt Murphy
March 22, 2020

The essence of unity ...

- truth about Jesus

The implication of unity ...

- diversity not uniformity

The demand of unity ...

- devotion over differences

Looking Back

United: One Name

John 17:1-11

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In John 13-17, Jesus gives his last words to his disciples before His death. What's the last thing He does in this famous last discourse in the upper room? He prays. And in His prayer, Jesus gives us a window into something that He was completely committed to... something He was so passionate about... something that He wanted not just for His followers that day but for us today: Jesus prays that we would be UNITED. What does that look like, and what are the implications for each of us? Over the next three weeks, we'll look at Jesus' profound prayer and the difference it makes.

Thinking It Through (agree/disagree consider/contemplate)

"Look at those who surrounded Jesus: A tax collector, a physician, fishermen, a woman who was a prostitute and at one time possessed with seven demons. Some were poor. Some were wealthy. Some were very energetic, while others were passive. Some were explosive like Peter. Others, like James, were logical." – Mike Murdoch

"All for one and one for all, united we stand divided we fall." – Alexandre Dumas, The Three Musketeers

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers [meeting] together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship. – A.W. Tozer

Working It Out

- Read verses 1-5. What do you observe about Jesus' relationship to God? What words or phrases stand out?

- Read verse 6-8. What do you notice about the disciples here? What is their relationship to Jesus? What is their relationship to God?
- Read verses 9-11. What is the one thing Jesus prays for? Does what Jesus prays surprise you? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesus cares so much about his followers being united?
- What does it look like for believers in Jesus to "be one"? What actions or attitudes or behaviors do you imagine being involved in that?
- Are there any groups of people (who believe or value or associate with different things than you do) that are hard for you to love? Who?
- What excuses do we use for not pursuing unity with people who are different from us?
- In light of what's going on in our world right now, do you think this passage of Scripture is timely for us to learn from? Why or why not?