

Sermon Title: The Prayer of a Harvest Laborer, Part 1

Sermon Text: John 17:20-23b

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to live out the reality of Jesus High Priestly Prayer.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 key factors of Jesus High Priestly Prayer to be modeled.

Introduction: True unity has to do with the sameness of purpose. Once this is achieved believers are able to bear witness to the true identity of Jesus as the One sent by the Father, to redeem lost mankind, back to the Father.

“Having joined the church of God, are any of you satisfied to be silent? Are you content to let those around you sink to hell? What! Never tell of Christ’s love? What! Never speak of salvation to your own children? Can this be right? In God’s name, wake up! What are you left on this earth for? If there is nothing for you to do, why are you in this sinful world?” – Charles Hadden Spurgeon

“Modern religion focuses upon filling churches with people. The true gospel emphasizes filling people with God.” – A. W. Tozer

I. The foundation of true unity through prayer. V.20

II. The followers of true unity through prayer. V.21a

III. The focus of true unity through prayer. V.21b-23c

IV. The fruit of true unity through prayer. V.21c-23b

I. The foundation of true unity through prayer. V.20

Jesus prays in this section of Scripture for all the believers to come after the disciples.

A. He prays for those who would come through the power of the Word of God, the Good News. (Seed) v.17, 20b

B. He prays for those who would come through the witness of the Disciples. (Sowers) v.18

C. He prays for those who come through the sacrifice of the cross. (The Savior) v.19

II. The followers of true unity through prayer. V.21a

A. The messengers of true unity.

The basis of unity centers in obedience to the truth revealed by the Father, which was communicated and mediated by Jews to His first disciples.

Believers are also to be united in the common belief of the truth that was received in the Word of God

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

This became possible and a reality when the Holy Spirit came. (Eternal life)

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Ephesians 4:4-6 *There is one body and one Spirit*, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; **5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father** of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

B. The model of true unity.

There are four ways believers reflect the unity of the Father and Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Unity is reflected by “being of the same mind.”
Philippians 2:2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.
2. Unity is reflected by “maintaining the same love.”
Romans 12:10 *Be* kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
3. Unity is reflected by “being united in spirit.”
The Greek means “One-souled” or “Same spiritual goals.”
4. Unity is reflected by “being intent on one purpose.”
“D.A. Carson notes that the unity for which Christ prayed ‘is not achieved by hunting enthusiastically for the lowest common theological denominator, but by common adherence to the apostolic gospel, by love that is joyfully self-sacrificing, by undaunted commitment to the shared goals of the mission with which Jesus’ followers have been charged.” [**Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1991, p. 568**]

“By the power of God, believers, united in spiritual life, are also united in purpose, share the same mission, proclaim the same gospel, and manifest the same holiness.” [**John MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 12-21, Moody Publishers, Chicago, p. 289**]

Acts 2:41-47 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

III. The focus of true unity through prayer. V.21b-23c

A. This focus of true unity is maintained by the Holy Spirit. v.21b

John 15:4-8, 12-17

1. The Father and Son are united in motive. **V.1,5,24; 13:31-32**
2. The Father and Son are united in mission. **V.2-4, 6**

3. The Father and Son are united in message. **V.8; 14:10**
4. The Father and Son are united in maturity. (holiness)
Romans 15:5-6; Hebrews 7:26; 12:14
5. The Father and Son are united in method. (Love) v. 24
John 3:35; 13:34-35

B. This focus of true unity is manifested by the witnesses. V.21c-23

John 14:17, 21; 15:26-27; 16:1-4, 7-11; 1 Corinthians 10:31

This is a reference to be believer's participation in all the attributes and essences of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (v. 10cf)

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

2 Peter 1:4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

And v. 23 makes clear ("I in them")

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 14:13 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

IV. The fruit of true unity through prayer. V.21c-23b

- A. The 1st fruit is the world will believe that the Father has sent the Son. V.21c
(Parable of the Father Sending His Son) **Luke 20:9-18**
- B. The 2nd fruit is the perfection of the Body of Christ. V.23b
Colossians 1:27-28 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. **28** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
- C. The 3rd fruit is the world will see the love of God for them. V.23c
Matthew 4:30-33 (Parable of the Mustard Seed)
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (Joh 3:16 NKJ)