

# The Life Challenge

Title: Life Together  
Text: John 17  
Speaker: Brian Cooper  
Date: May 10, 2020



## WARM-UP

In the midst of this pandemic, is there anything you are discovering about your need for community that you either didn't realize about yourself, or didn't fully appreciate, before social distancing became a reality in our lives?

## DISCUSSION

### Read John 17.

- Based on Jesus prayer in this chapter, what is the community of Jesus followers supposed to look like or be characterized by?

**Our world values position and authority, where some are superior and others subordinate. The Bible, however, makes it clear that in the community of Jesus followers we are to live in mutual submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21). In the world's context, the people who are most fond of the idea of submission are generally those who see themselves as being "superior" or who are grasping for power. But in God's kingdom, ALL are to embrace submission to their brothers and sisters in Christ.**

- Why is the idea of submission so "offensive" to some?
- What does it practically look like for you to submit yourself to our church family?
- What kinds of things would characterize a church community if everybody actually embraced this call?

**In the service video Brian said that the early Christians were more interested in making sure that no one was in need than they were in ensuring that they were prosperous.**

- How does the church measure up today against that standard?
- What changes might Christians need to make so that the church would better reflect this picture of the church?
- What changes might **you** need to make to reflect this attitude?

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## DISCUSSION

**Reflect on John 17:20-21. This prayer by Jesus for the unity of all believers seems almost preposterous ... it seems to be such an impossibly high call!**

- Why is the unity of believers so important to Jesus?
- What practical things can Christians embrace to help move us towards this grand vision Jesus prays for?
- What things do you note that Christians do that mitigate against such unity?

**The call to community and oneness in the body of Christ is not a general suggestion to connect with other Christians to whatever degree one is comfortable with. Brian said, "It will mean that personal space and privacy will likely need to be renegotiated in light of greater priorities. It will mean that people will know things about you that might make you embarrassed."**

- How does that statement make you feel?
- Are you open to obedience in the area of Christian community/unity even when it makes you uncomfortable?
- Would you pray that God would give you courage to be obedient to that call?