

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Teach Us to Pray
Title: Let My Church Be One
Speaker: Steve Berg
Text: John 17:20-26
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WARM-UP

Sometimes we use the phrase, "Blood runs thicker than water." Can you tell a story about a family relationship - or a deep friendship - that has caused you to have such a loyalty and commitment to that person that you would do anything for them?

DISCUSSION

As Jesus and the eleven disciples walk toward His final hours before He is crucified, Jesus is praying to His Father with a powerful love, loyalty and commitment to everyone who will believe in Him. Jesus has prayed that His life will bring glory to the Father, and that His disciples will stand strong in the world. Then His prayer reaches beyond what these men can comprehend - Jesus prays for all of those who will believe in Him for the thousands of years to come.

1. How many people have followed Christ over 2000 years? There are about 2 billion Christians living today - discuss some of the thoughts and questions that come to your mind when you consider that these are the people that Jesus is praying for (17:20)?
 2. What is Christian unity? Why is Jesus at the center of this unity? (read Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:11-22)
 3. How can Christians live in complete unity? (17:22-23) Why has it been difficult for Christians walk in unity? (Ephesians 4:1-6,13)
 4. Why does Jesus connect unity and believing in His prayer?(17:21, 23) Have you seen disunity impact the effectiveness or fruitfulness of God's mission in the world? What happened? How was this disunity resolved? Are you walking in disunity with anyone? What ongoing impact does this have in you?
 5. Jesus reveals a powerful work that He will continue to bring about in the world (17:25-26; also read Hebrews 7:25). How does this encourage and inspire us on our life journey of following Jesus?
1. What is one way in which you feel specifically impressed to pray for unity in your own life and in the life of the church? Discuss this with your group and pray about these things together.

PRAYER

1. Father, I pray that I will be one with other Christians by...
2. Father, I want to make Jesus known to...(name/s)...and I pray that they will believe in Him
3. Father, I pray that Your love for people will shine through me by...