



# Unity

John 17:1-11

[based on the sermon presented on 21.5.23 – available on the [church app](#) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

## KEY IDEAS

1. Jesus continues to teach the disciples in the upper room the night before he is killed.
2. Jesus begins an extended prayer to God the Father, in which he continues to make reference to his oneness with the Father, presenting strong evidence for the concept of God as a Trinity, a God who is in relational unity as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Also in his prayer, Jesus thanks God for the disciples and their belief in him.
4. Jesus then prays for the protection and unity of the disciples.

## CONNECT

- Have you ever experienced a strong unity of relationship with someone else or several others? What was that like? How did this unity help make your life better and stronger? Conversely, have you ever experienced relational dis-unity or breakdown? What was that like? How did this dis-unity make your life more difficult?

## STUDY

### Read John 17:1-5

- Each of these five verses reflect or display relational unity at some level. Going verse by verse, describe that unity for each verse, who is involved and how that relational unity is expressed.
- How is the focus of v. 2 similar to that which the apostle Paul describes in Ephesians 2:8-9 regarding how salvation takes place?

- How is the point of v. 3 similar to that which Jesus made earlier in John 14:6?
- Based on Jesus' statement in v. 4, is the work of Christ for our salvation finished or unfinished? What are the implications of this? Why is this important?
- What does v. 5 indicate about the nature of Jesus in relation to the Father/the Trinity, and time and eternity?

### **Read John 17:6-8**

- Jesus' description of the disciples in v. 6 as being given to him by God "out of this world" implies that in some way they are no longer part of the world. Can you elaborate on this being "out of the world"? What does this mean? Does it apply equally to us today?
- Contrast Jesus' words in prayer about the disciples in vv 7-8 with what he said to the disciples in 14:9-11. In John 14 what did Jesus invite the disciples to do? In John 17 does it seem Jesus is content that they had done what he had earlier asked? If so, how would you explain this difference or transformation?

### **Read John 17:9-11**

- In v. 9 why do you think Jesus prays only for the disciples and not the world at large? Does this mean Jesus doesn't care about the world at large?
- In v. 10 Jesus again expresses his relationship of mutual love, power and authority with the Father. He also declares that he has received glory through the disciples. Based on what you know about the disciples to this point, identify some of the ways this glory might have come. What had they done which brought glory to Jesus by this point? Remember, this is not yet the book of Acts; Jesus had not resurrected and the church had not yet begun and they had not begun their incredible preaching and evangelistic ministry they soon would.
- In v. 11 Jesus states that in some way the disciples are still "in" the world. Is this contrary to what Jesus stated in v. 6 that they have come out of the world? How can one have come "out" of the world but also be "in" the world at the same time?
- Jesus also speaks in v. 11 of protection by the power of God's name. How does God's name protect us? What did Jesus mean by this?
- Jesus concludes this section by praying for unity for the disciples, that they would be one or united in the same way that Jesus and the Father are one or united. First, discuss what this

unity between God the Father and God the Son looks like. Then, how can we have a similar unity with one another?

- Why does Jesus ask for this unity amongst his followers? Why is unity between followers of Jesus Christ so important? What happens when we are united? What doesn't happen when we are not united but rather bickering, fighting, angry or uncooperative?

## **APPLY**

- What is one Christian group which is at odds with or not in unity with another Christian group? Pray for those groups.
- Is there any person or group with whom you are not in unity but should be? Pray for yourself and that other person or group. What can you do / what should you do to help facilitate greater unity in this relationship?
- Which other aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?
- Identify one or more truths from this study which speak to and can be applied in your life.
  - 1.
  - 2.

## **PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER**

- According to need.