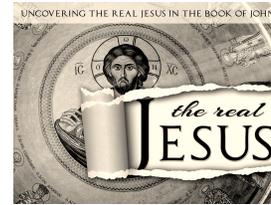


## Notes:

The only way for us to develop this kind of love is to go back to the last phrase of verse 23.

...*May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.*

**Jesus has the audacity to say God's love for you is *no different*, than His love for His only begotten Son.**



## ***How Unity is a Witness to the World*** **John 17:20-26**

### **The Close of Jesus' Prayer to His Father**

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. <sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

<sup>22</sup> "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup> I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

<sup>24</sup> Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

<sup>25</sup> "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

### **So what is Jesus actually praying for here?**

People who are in unified with Jesus, should be for each other, just as He and the Father are together.

### **Community Group Questions:**

1. Where is unity a struggle for you? Be honest.
2. What did you hear in the message to help you change that struggle?
3. The Father's love for you is equal to the love of His only begotten Son. Share what that means to you.

What is the stumbling block to our unity? \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>21</sup> I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. John 17:21

1. It takes God's love to heal our broken lives.

2. In Christ's love there's the possibility of such incredible love and unity that the world will be amazed by it.

May they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.  
vs. 21

May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me...  
vs. 23

What's the #1 reason the world doesn't want to believe in Christ?

Because Jesus wants \_\_\_\_\_ of your life.

vs 21,23 are saying the love of God creates such a "love" between us that the world cannot help but notice.

This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.  
1 John 3:11

Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.  
1 John 3:10

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.  
1 John 3:16

I. The love that drives unity is costly.

All the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.  
Acts 2:44

There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them <sup>35</sup> and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need.  
Acts 4:34,35

Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.  
Philippians 2:4

"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! Luke 6:32

II. The love that motivates unity is forgiving.

"That's what my heavenly Father will do to you; if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart." Matthew 18:35

"...forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."  
Matthew 6:12

The moment you say, "I will not forgive,"  
you're denying that God loves you.  
See- Matthew 18:21-35

**Pastor Tim Keller-** "How dare I be a judge, when only God has the wisdom to know what this person who I'm so mad at deserves, and only God has the right to give this person who I'm so mad at what they deserve? If the world doesn't see an ability to continually regenerate our broken relationships inside the Body of Christ, then they have every right to say, "They're no different than we are. Jesus isn't real"

We love each other because he loved us first. 1 John 4:19

