"Christ's Prayer for You"
John 17:20-23

C.I.T.—Jesus reveals His heart for all Christians through His prayer for us.
C.I.S.—We will succeed in the Christian life as you apply Christ's prayer to your life.
Purpose—I want us to see ourselves through the lens of Christ's prayer for us.
Introduction—Have people pray for you? What about Jesus

- Object of His prayers are for those who will believe through their word.
    - Expectation that His disciples share His Word of salvation and make other disciples.
    - Expect this to continue throughout the ages
- He is praying for them to be strengthened and prepared for life without His personal presence.
- This then becomes a list of what you and I need to stay faithful in this life.

I. ***A Calling that Unifies.*** Vs. 20-21a

a. Prayer for unity.
b. They all may be one.
c. One as He and Father are one.
    i. They are one in essence.
    ii. They are one in heartbeat.
    iii. They are one in mission.
d. Pauline Metaphor of the body of Christ found throughout 1 Corinthians/Ephesians—many parts/members, but one body
e. The expectation is that we be unified.
f. Philippians 2:1-5
g. Illus.—Redwood trees have shallow roots, but they are intertwined with each other
h. Application
    i. Why did he pray this, because he knew that the church would face decisions about the color of the carpet.
    ii. We were not made to fight and bicker, but to be unified.
    iii. I was asked, "if I become a member, do I have to believe everything that you say."
    iv. No, we are not a cult.
    v. However, there are some things that unify us, and without them we can't have fellowship, like Jesus is God's Son.
    vi. Even though we disagree, we do so in a loving manner.
    vii. We need the unity of the fellowship of believers in order to stand firm for Christ.
    viii. We are called to maintain that unity.

II. ***A Commonality that Unifies***. Vs 21b

a. Fellowship carries the idea that they all have something in common.
b. Here that commonality is that they are in Jesus.
    i. This has an objective reality—we are in Jesus and unified in Him.
    ii. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
    iii. Ephesians 4:1-6
c. Requires a subjective application—we must live like it.
d. Illus.—When you go on a mission trip, you find that denominational differences go away, you are just happy to find someone else who loves Jesus
e. Application
    i. We may have differing views on certain things, we may have different tastes, and different backgrounds.
    ii. But we are unified because we have Christ.

iii. He lives in us and we in Him.
iv. He wants us to act like it.

III. ***A Cause that Unifies***. Vs 22-23

a. This "glory" has been given so they might be one—assist in their unification.
b. What is this glory?
   i. Could be the glory of his reputation/majesty/awesomeness
   ii. If this glory, then the giving of the Holy Spirit would extend this glory to us.
   iii. Could be the glory of the cross—the mission for which He was sent
   iv. If this glory, then we are sent on a similar mission for the gospel.
c. Regardless, this glory is possessed by us and leads to a completed unity.
d. End result is that the world would see our unity and it would magnify the gospel message.
e. John 13:34-35
f. Illus.—Platoon in the military—all different backgrounds and job, beliefs, faiths, etc., but they are all unified for the mission.
g. Application
   i. Alamo—Church, became a battlefield, and is now a museum.
   ii. When a church takes its focus off of evangelism, it will resort to cannibalism.
   iii. Keep the mission at the forefront.
   iv. Very rarely have I had people who were engaged in the mission cause dissension in a church.
   v. Very rarely do members of the visitation team cause problem—they are on mission.
   vi. Only when we take our eyes off of the mission, do we start causing disunity.

Conclusion

- We have been given a fellowship of believers to live life with.--The church.
- Christians are not designed to be Lone Rangers.
- Those watching at home, I am glad you are watching, but my hope is that you will come to church to enjoy the "fellowship" of unified believers.
- Lord's Supper—accountability for maintaining unity within the church.

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