JESUS’ PRAYER FOR US

John 17:23(ESV) I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Some Things Jesus Prayed for His First Disciples

John 17:11b “Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they be one as we are one.”

John 17:13-15 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:13 “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

John 17:16&17 “They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 8:21&32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 17:18&19 “As you have sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

Jesus Prays for Us

John 17:20&21 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one; Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:22&23 “I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Although Jesus’ prayer is not teaching on the Trinity, it does shed light on what the doctrine of the triune God means.

Jesus had prayed “that they may be one as we are one” in verse 11. He now prays in verse 20 “that all of them may be one” and in verse 22 “that they may be one as we are one” and in verse 23(ESV) “that they may become perfectly one.”

Does this mean organizational unity? Luke 9:49&50 “Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him because he is not one of us.” “Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”

Luke 11:23 “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”

Does that Mean We Should Try to Be One with Everyone Who Calls Himself a Follower of Jesus?

Jesus warned of wolves in sheep’s clothing who never knew Him in Matthew 7:15-23. Paul talks about false believers who had infiltrated the ranks of the church in Galatians 2:4. Jude verse 4 warns of those who “have secretly slipped among you…who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality…” Jesus warned the churches in Pergamum and Thyatira of coming judgment because the tolerated those who condoned sexual immorality (Revelation 2:12-23).

Four biblical essentials: The inspiration and authority of Scripture; The deity of Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection; salvation by grace through faith; not condoning what the Bible explicitly condemns, especially sexual immorality and deliberately taking the life of the unborn.

What Did Jesus Say Would Happen if All Believers Were One?

John 17:21 “that all of them may be one…that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:22&23(ESV) “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

Jesus says, “that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

Jesus says, “that the world may know that you sent me.:

Jesus says, “that the world may know that you…loved them even as you loved me.”

Christians not getting along with each other and/or fighting over non-essential issues makes it difficult for the world to believe that God the Father sent Jesus Christ the Son into the world. When Christians are unified, the world believes that God the Father sent Jesus.

John 13:34&35 “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

When Christians love one another and are perfectly one, the world knows that they truly represent God, that they are truly Jesus’ disciples.

What Is Our Responsibility in This?

Ephesians 4:1-3 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

We do not make the unity of the Spirit; it is our job to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Practically, it means building unity within churches and also building unity across church and denominational lines. We can’t really say that we love one another if we don’t even know each other. Building relationships takes spending time together. The most practical way to do this seems to be to worship and/or pray together.

If the mission of the Wellsville Bible Church is to Evangelize through Discipleship, that is to lead people to Christ, then disciple them to lead others to Christ, then part of the mission is to make people receptive to the Gospel by building unity in the Body of Christ.

Things to Remember

Jesus prayed that His current followers would be protected from the power of the evil one and that they would be one as He and the Father were one.

He prayed that they would be set apart to Him through the truth, the Word of God.

He then prayed for those who would believe through His disciples’ message. The central theme of His prayer was that they would be one as He and the Father were one, so that the world would believe that God the Father had sent Him and that His followers were loved by the Father as He was loved by the Father.

Jesus taught that if His disciples would love one another, everyone would know that they were His disciples.

Our job is to keep the God-given unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

If our goal is to lead people to Christ, building unity in the Body of Christ will make people receptive to the Gospel.