
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 6/2/2019

“True Unity” from John 17:20-23 by Drew Hunter

Overview

As we continue to zoom in on Jesus’ high priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus’ solution to bring about unity in this world is through the Church. Jesus prays for believers to pursue true unity together in order to fulfill the ultimate purpose: mission. Jesus’ prayer answers the following questions about true unity:

- 1) What is it?
- 2) Where does it come from?
- 3) Why does it matter?
- 4) How do we get it?

Quotations

“We are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone, based on the authority of God’s word alone.” -5 Solas

“We cannot expect the world to believe that the Father sent the Son, that Jesus’ claims are true, and that Christianity is true, unless the world sees some reality of the oneness of true Christians... now that is frightening. Should we not feel some emotion at this point?” -Francis Schaeffer, *The Mark of the Christian*

Understanding & Application

- 1) According to the apostles’ own words, what is the apostolic gospel? What text(s) most clearly lay this out?
- 2) How is baptism a picture of unity both to Christ himself and to other believers?
- 3) According to John 17:21, how is mission the purpose of our unity in Christ?
- 4) How does being/having community simply for the sake of community fall short of God’s ultimate purpose for his people?
- 5) Using the image of the three shelves, name at least two doctrines on each level and the corresponding verse(s) that support why you put that doctrine on that specific shelf.
- 6) As we consider doctrines on the lower shelves, our emotional response should be lowered accordingly. What first-importance doctrines have you held too loosely (not enough emotion) and what doctrines are you most tempted to hold onto with too much emotion?