

Day 13 – *January 25*

Jennifer Williams

May They Be One

Key Verse: John 17:20-23

“I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 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”.

This was Jesus's last prayer - known as His “FAREWELL PRAYER”. As we read it, we can feel the weight of it. Jesus prays for all those who will come to believe in Him through the disciples' message. He prays for unity among future believers, that they would share the divine unity He experiences with the Father. He also prays that future believers will witness His glory. His Prayer leaves us with an invitation to deeper unity, faith, and love in our journey with Him.

Ephesians 4 teaches “And it was He [Jesus] who gave some to be Apostles, some to be Prophets, some to be Evangelists, and some to be Pastors and Teachers, to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to full measure of the stature of Christ” (verses 11-13).

Jesus prayed for this in John 17 and made provisions for it to happen! It is God's design that we work together, whatever our cultural differences, status in life, rich or poor, old or young. There is one thing that unites us and that is love, the virtue that binds all other virtues together in perfect unity.

These words from John Fawcett sum unity like this: “Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in

Christian love, The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above”. These words capture the importance of a community connected to God and each other!

It is through the love of God and the cross of Christ that we are brought into this wonderful community, called the Church. And his Kingdom is within us, and he is our Sovereign King! His Kingdom is not of this world. This is where we become united, in Him. Jesus prayed in John 17 that we may experience such perfect unity that the world will know.... Unity in the church is important for others to see and know Christ! This is an awesome realization! We don't all have to be the same, but we must become like Him!

QUESTIONS

Christian unity is defined as a state of oneness, harmony, and love among believers in Jesus Christ.

1. How can you participate to achieve the unity that Jesus prayed for?
2. Seek first the kingdom of God....(Matt. 6:33) Imagine if we all pursue Jesus, what would be the outcome? (Ephesians 4:14-15).
3. Read Acts 2:42-47. Are these the requirements or the effects of unity?

PRAYER:

Father I pray that I grow in intimacy with you, and that this would affect my relationships with those around me. Use my life as I partner with fellow brother and sisters in Christ to see your kingdom established here on earth!