



# UNITY

**John 17:6-26**  
**Week of March 19, 2023**

**Belong:** *Use this as a time to get to know one another. The questions below are written for people to open-up and belong to the group.*

Take a **few minutes** to hear about your group members' week.

Choose two of the questions below:

- Ask about highs or lows that have happened since the last time you met.
- Or, Give a fun fact about yourself.
- Or, All things considered, the worst advice you've followed and regretted?
- Or, What's the grossest food you ever had to eat to be polite?

**How has God revealed Himself to you this week?**

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**Believe:** *Read this week assigned Scriptures then highlight each verse that speaks to you. Include the book, chapter and verse(s).*

Have someone in the group read **John 17:6-26** aloud.

The sermon preached this morning focuses on unity in Christ. The passage used is **John 17**. In it, we find the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. In this prayer, Jesus hits unity three times in **verses 21, 22, 23**. We are fortunate that the unity Jesus prays for in today's passage is not an organizational or bureaucratic unity...we don't do so well with this as preference and tradition take us further away from unity. Instead, Jesus is praying for unity in truth, love, and mission, just as He and His Father are united in truth, love, and mission. This kind of unity shows the world around us the love of Jesus and is a full revelation of God the Father.

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**Build:** *Engage the passage and wrestle with its meaning. Ask why it was written, who was it written to, and what is the author trying to say to the **original audience**. Be sure to pay attention to the **context** to help you understand the meaning. How does it fit with the verses before and after it?*

What does Jesus prayer in **John 17** focus on?

- Why is unity important among disciples of Jesus?
- What is a symptom or result of disunity in the church?

Is unity a problem for the church now? Why?

- Are we united in God's mission?
- Is FBC, united in God's mission to Portland?

In **verses 17-19**, Jesus mentions the word "sanctify."

- What does it mean to be sanctified?
- Who does the work of sanctifying?
- Do we have any responsibility in it?

## **Become:** *Application is the heart of the process. How can this help me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What is God saying to me?*

Unity in Scripture doesn't necessarily discuss denominations. BUT, denominations are a big part of our community and our faith.

- Discuss if denominations do more to spread unity or disunity?
- Do denominations work hard to find common ground to work together?
- Do you think the arguments that exist between denominations work to hurt the mission of the church? How?
- How should the church balance keeping strong doctrine based on Scripture and being unified with other believers? Is this possible?

Sanctification means to be set apart. Salvation is only the beginning, the first step. After that we must be growing in sanctification all the time. We are to be set apart from the world in our conduct AND we are sanctified through God's truthful word.

- **Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, Hebrews 12:14, James 1:21.**

What areas do these verses mention that we should be set apart from the world?

- Why were these areas (mentioned in verses above) important for the 1st century church to be separated?
- If we could re-write **1 Thessalonians 4:3** for FBC today, how would we fill the blank?
  - **"For this is God's will, your sanctification: that you keep away from \_\_\_\_\_?"**

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## **Begin:** *It's important that we not only hear and discuss God's Word but respond to it. (James 1:22)*

**Do you see any of God's attributes in this week's passage that struck out to you?  
How should it change the way you pray, think, speak or act this week?**

**At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:**

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

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## **Additional Resources:**

**Blue Letter Bible: John 17:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



**Precept Austin: John 17:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

