

JESUS' DESIRE
— FOR OUR —
UNITY
TOGETHER

CRESTVIEW
WEEK OF PRAYER - 2021

DAY 1

HE WOULD UNITE US FOR OUR SANCTIFICATION

John 17:17-19 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in the truth."

On the last night of His life, Jesus was on His knees for us. The great desire and prayer was for our complete sanctification that will be enacted at His death and resurrection. The Son is asking the Father to truly use this work to set us apart that the world might know Him through us. So His prayer of unity starts with the request for our sanctification. And our unity together is a deeply sanctifying work done in our hearts and lives.

Pray that our unity together would be for our sanctification. Pray that each of us would embrace one another and He would use that to make us more like Him. Yet not only to grow closer to Jesus through it, but also to illustrate to the world the complete reconciliation that we have with God.

DAY 2

HE WOULD UNITE US SUPERNATURALLY

John 17:20-21 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The Body of Christ is a wonderful conglomeration of different people from different backgrounds and ideas, baggage, and history. This is why it's only a work of God to supernaturally bring us together as one Family in Him. Even though we attempt to finitely and fallibly bring a church together around our interests, ideas, or friendships, this is not the testimony that speaks volumes to a divided world.

Pray that God would truly unite us supernaturally by His power and not by our own wisdom. Ask Him to tear down our distorted version of unity and allow it to be a powerful display to a lost and broken world. And pray that He would open their eyes to see His divine unity among us.

DAY 3

HE WOULD UNITE US FOR GLORY

John 17:22 "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,"

What a powerful statement! That Jesus would give us the same honor and glory that He has received is humbling and awe-inducing. This is not an autocorrect or a misprint, Jesus gives the Church His glory in order for us to be united as the Triune God is united. So let's not seek the glory that comes from the world in being united around temporal things, but rather seek the eternal glory from the Son.

Pray that we as a church would be glorified in our unity together in order to glorify Christ. Ask Him to tear down strongholds in which we tend to glory and boast and leave only the glory of Christ. And pray that this glory would cause us to be truly one, just as He is one.

DAY 4

HE WOULD UNITE US FOR LOVE

John 17:23 "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."

Church, you are dearly loved by God. Remember who we are, scrubbed of all self-righteousness, a rebellious and idolatrous people. A people who have been redeemed and rescued by a God who faithfully and eternally loves them. It is this love, that causes us to be "perfectly one" with each other. Embrace this amazing, radical love that unifies us together.

Pray that His love for us would result our unity together as a church. Pray that we would be empowered by the same unconditional, sacrificial love to accept one another in love. Once again, pray that this love would be on display for the world to see how much Jesus loves His bride, the church.

DAY 5

HE WOULD UNITE US FOR ETERNITY WITH HIM

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

Many times, the pressures of life overwhelm us and we lose sight of eternity with Jesus. Our preferences, choices, and interests drown out the fact that we will be spending eternity together with Him. The church is a small expression of our future reality for eternity. Furthermore, Jesus longs to be with you! Hear Him telling you today that His desire is for us to be with Him forever.

Pray that God would shift our minds to our eternity with Him. Ask Him to give us a glimpse of what that eternity looks like here on earth as we live together as a church. And pray that we would be comforted by His desire and glory for us to be together with Him in His eternal home.

DAY 6

HE WOULD UNITE US IN KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF

John 17:25-26 "O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

You have not and will not plunge the depths of the knowledge of Christ. Each of us in the church are at a different level of knowledge of the things of God. And our Teacher will continue to reveal Himself to people according to their measure of faith. He does this in order to reveal His love to us, not in order for us to be arrogant in our freedoms and knowledge. And this knowledge of Him leads us to greater love of Him and one another.

Pray that Christ would continue to unite us together in knowledge of Himself. Pray that this knowledge would lead us to know of His love for us and our love for one another. And ask the Spirit to boast of Christ's love in our hearts and not of our knowledge of Him.

DAY 7

HE WOULD UNITE US BECAUSE OF THE CROSS

This unity is only possible because of what happens on the next page in the gospel of John. Unity is impossible without Jesus laying down His life, bearing the shame and wrath that was on us, and bringing us new life in Him. Through His death, we are one with each other and with Him! He now gives us the Holy Spirit who lives in us to unite us together - making the impossible possible.

Pray that we would be humbled by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross to make our life together possible. Ask God to continue His unifying work in our Body through the gospel work. Pray that all of us would be able to lay down our lives for the sake of one another.

Then finish the week by praying Jesus' prayer from John 17:20-26 in light of our life together at Crestview.
