

Introduction

Jesus stops and prays for the church of tomorrow, in fact, he stops and prays for us. That we will carry on the mission set down during his final weeks of his life.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

He prays about what concerns him and we discover this. He prays with intimacy and confidence, the kind of confidence we can experience.

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message

Group Work: What is your personal prayer life like and how would you describe the intimacy between you and Christ; how does that work?

Jesus prays for the next generation and future believers.

Group Work: Talk about the next generation, your fears and hopes and then pray for them.

²¹ 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.

First, he prayed that **we** will have unity (be one), like that of the first Disciples (v11) the unity must be visibly based on love so that when the world sees **us**, it will know immediately that **we** represent Jesus.

Group work: Unity is a powerful word, in your experience what can bring disunity within a church and how can we avoid this?

Unity – Love - World

This is something that grows out of union with Christ, our intimacy with Christ produces unity, love and in turn blesses the world. 'May they also be in us' we enjoy a union with him.

Unity – between Father and Son

Unity – joined by the Disciples

Unity – reflected in the church

Unity – that transforms the world

Group work: We are invited to participate; we are invited into the conversation with Jesus and the father. How do you feel about this privilege?

²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

²³ 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.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Jesus is sent as a loved Son, we are loved. He prays that we may see his love, true glory, true love.

Jesus is heading, yearning to return to the love of the Father and Christians possess an invitation to join him. (14:3)

²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you^[e] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

We are loved by God with the love he holds for his Son!

Last words, “that I may be in them”.

His last desire is to love his followers and indwell them, to fill them with the glory and joy he has known, so that their knowledge of God will be unsurpassed and overwhelming.

Group Work: do you feel the love and assurance of the Father, if so how did you step into that revelation?