

Sermon Series: "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"
Message #4: "Jesus Prays for His Followers"

John 17:6-26

Larry Martens ~ March 13, 2016

One of the primary ways followers of Jesus brings glory to God is to live in love and unity with one another. Indeed, Jesus emphasizes in His prayer that such a relationship is a distinctive and a compelling witness of an authentic faith. Jesus prayed for Himself (vv. 1-5).

Now He prays for His followers and focuses on three key concerns:

1. Jesus prays for spiritual unity among His followers. (vv. 11-12, 20-23).
2. Jesus prays that His followers will be protected from the evil one (vv. 14-15).
3. Jesus prays that His followers will be sanctified by the truth (vv. 17-19).

What does this prayer mean for us?

1. Be constantly vigilant to assaults from the evil one.
2. Foster a spiritual unity that is based on our shared life in Jesus Christ.
3. Focus on unity in Christ rather than organization, structure, or programs.
4. Give attention to those things that foster rather than hinder unity.
5. Extend grace and express gratitude toward one another.