

One Body

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 17:20-26.
- B. Jesus prayed for all believers in the Upper Room Discourse, not just those present with them.

II. Jesus indicated there is one, holy, Catholic Church.

- A. Catholic means universal.
- B. All believers of all time are members of one another.
- C. We are members of the church by belief in Jesus—a personal relationship with Him.
 - 1. Jesus will be available throughout all ages for believers.
 - 2. The born again relationship believers have is based upon the Apostolic witness.
 - 3. The Jesus we are to follow is the Jesus of the Apostles.
 - a. With so many views of Jesus, it is no wonder why there is so much confusion.
 - b. Any deviation from the Jesus of the Apostles is a counterfeit.
- D. The request for unity is being answered throughout the ages.
 - 1. The church does not need to wait twenty centuries for this prayer to be answered.
 - 2. The nature of the unity shows that the prayer is being answered.
 - a. The prayer is that believers may be made one with the Apostles.
 - b. The church must be tied to the ancient church to the days of the Apostles.
- E. Jesus prays that the church would be given the glory He has been given.
 - 1. This glory is the name and the words of God.
 - 2. This is the power of God.
 - 3. There is a glory in the church that cannot be compared elsewhere.
 - 4. Christians are often weak because they do not believe these magnificent claims for themselves—God is in us, and the Father is in the Son. The Trinity is within us and we are linked with the life of God.

F. The purpose for this unity is so that...

1. The world would believe that God sent Jesus.
2. The world would know God has loved the world as He loved Jesus.
 - a. Heaven is made heaven only because we are with Christ.
 - b. The joy of the Christian is that he beholds the glory of Jesus in heaven.
 - c. We do not have to wait for heaven—in the Spirit, we are able to behold the glory of Christ right now.
 - d. The glory of Jesus is the glory of God's love for man.

Application questions:

1. Are Protestant Christians catholic? Explain.

2. How have you struggled to believe God's magnificent claims for the church? How has this weakened your witness before others?

3. How can we experience a piece of heaven while still on earth? Explain.
