

THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE...

Reference: **John 17:20-23**

Pastor Daniel Flynn

What DOES it mean to be a witness for Christ? It's unity! - Unity will be the key to witnessing to others about Jesus Christ.

A disciple is a person who is learning to worship Jesus as God, walk with God and His family, work for God in ministry, win their battle with sin and witness to others about Christ.

- I. What kind of unity was Jesus praying His disciples would experience?
 - Unity and unanimity are different.
 - Unanimity means that every individual within a given group of people holds the same opinion.
 - When Jesus was praying for unity, He was not praying for us to have uniformity.
 - Unity and uniformity are different.
 - Uniformity means that everybody is the same.
- II. Uniformity would mean that we are all alike.
 - Uniformity says, "If you don't talk like me, walk like me, dress like me and live like me, then I'm not going to be your friend."
 - This is **not** the attitude Jesus was praying we would have.
- III. Jesus was praying that His disciples would experience the same unity expressed in the trinity.
 - A. The unity Jesus was praying for is a **unity of devotion**.
 - Just like the Trinity. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all the same family, but each has a different ministry.
 - So it is with you and I in the church. We each are devoted to Jesus Christ but we each express our devotion in different and meaningful ways.
 - What Jesus expects to be the same is that we all must have true devotion to Him.
 - B. The unity Jesus prayed for is a **unity of nature. (Ephesians 4:24-25)**
 - We share the same Father and therefore share the same nature.
 - Yet, we couldn't be more different.
 - What connects us all is that we have a spiritual unity of nature.
 - C. The unity Jesus was praying about is also a **unity of attitude**.
 - What kind of attitude are we to have toward one another?
 - Since we all come from the same Father, we should look to our dad to show us. (**Ephesians 5:1-2**)
 - "In essentials; unity. In non-essentials; liberty; and in all things, charity."

IV. Notice why Jesus prayed for this kind of unity. (**v. 21**)

- V. Unity is a powerful testimony! One of the primary ways we witness is through our relationships with each other as Christians.
(**1 Peter 3:8; Philippians 2:2; Psalm 133:1; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3; Colossians 3:14**)

*"The lost world cannot see God, but they can see Christians;
and what they see in us is what they will believe about God.
If they see love and unity, they will believe that God is love.
If they see hatred and division,
they will reject the message of the Gospel."*

Warren Weirsbe