



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The "I" in Them

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THEME Relational Evangelism & Strategic Prayers

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

THE "I" IN THEM

Jesus' prayer in John 17:6-26 was for His disciples to be both one with God and one with others. He made four petitions for us. His first petition was that we would be protected from both internal and external attacks and be one despite Christ no longer being in the world. His second petition was that we would be sanctified by the Word while being in this world. His third petition was that with His disciples being one with God and with others, Jesus would be vindicated. His last petition was that in being one with Jesus, we would have the love of God in us and behold His glory.

Christ's prayer for us to be one with Him and others still stands today. Hence, we need to know how to achieve oneness and be a living testimony of it.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE ONENESS WITH GOD AND OTHERS?

1) ONE WITH GOD

In verses 6-8, Jesus acknowledged that God gave us to Him and He had manifested God's name to us through the Word. These verses show that we are gifts from the Father to Jesus. Hence, we need to recognise our worth in God. Not having a healthy estimate of our worth will affect our oneness with God negatively. Furthermore, we need to recognise His Word. This means that we receive, understand and believe in God through His Word. We need to fully understand in order to fully believe and when we fully believe, we will know how special we are to God. Imagine how special we would feel if we were in the presence of our favourite celebrities. Similarly, when we believe that God is the one true celebrity and know who we are to Him, everything in this world will pale in comparison to being with Him. We will want to keep His Word and be one with God.

We must remember to never trust our feelings for the heart is deceitful (Jer 17:9); always go back to the Word which will help us understand and believe in God as well as to recognise our worth in Him.

2) ONE WITH OTHERS

After being one with God, we can then be one with others. The bulk of Jesus' prayer for us in John 17 focuses on us being one with others as He knew that it would not be easy for us to achieve.

In order to achieve this oneness with others, we need to understand that oneness needs to be protected (vv 11, 12) and proclaimed (vv 21, 23). Oneness also needs to have passion (vv 23, 26).

Firstly, Jesus pleaded that we would be protected against internal corruption (v 11) and external attack (v12). Our unity can be attacked internally through wrong teachings and when we misbehave i.e. compare, condemn, compete and complain. External attacks come from the world we live in that challenges our values and faith. To protect our oneness with others, we need to be sanctified by the Word (v17) and live it out loud. We can live His Word out loud through honouring our leaders (Heb 13:17), encouraging one another to love and do good deeds (Heb 10:24) and equipping the saints (Eph 4:11). Secondly, Jesus prayed that we would be one in Him and the Father such that our unity would then testify to the world that Jesus is real and He was sent by God. We proclaim our oneness when we love one another just like how Jesus loves us (John 13:34). Lastly, Jesus asked God to give us the love in which God loves Jesus. We need the love of the Father to have strength to love both God and others.

CONCLUSION

In order to achieve oneness with God, we need to recognise our worth in Him and keep His Word. It is vital that we become one with God or we will not be able to be one with others. For us to achieve oneness with others, we need to understand that oneness needs to be protected and proclaimed. It also needs to have passion.

If Christ is concerned with our oneness with God and others, should we not be as well? God has sanctified us with His Truth and given us the strength to do so. Hence, let us live it out loud as His disciples.

QUESTIONS

1. What are some examples of oneness you have seen or experienced with God and others?

2. In order to have oneness with God, we need to recognise our worth and internalise His Word.
A. Do you have a healthy estimate of your worth in God?
B. What changes can you make so that you can grow in your oneness with God?

3. For us to have oneness with others, we need to protect and proclaim it as well as have passion. Jesus also asks God to sanctify us with His Truth.
A. What does it mean to be sanctified by His Truth and what can you do to grow in it?
B. What steps can you take to grow in your oneness with others, particularly in the cell group?