

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups June 24th 2007

Going deeper into Prayer - Prayer for all believers, in the World. John 17:20-26



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Introduction : v.20 :a final meal.. a farewell party. Jesus shares his heart in the form of a prayer for the disciples and now for us, those who have believe don account of their message. His **central concern is oneness, unity, with God, and oneness with others.** Its foundation is that divine glory is to be seen and shared in Jesus. John 1:14 'Glory' was a way of speaking of God's being. **When Jesus prayed for you, it was for three things :** for unity, for union of intimacy with God and for your calling or destiny

1. Unity - oneness: a)Incarnation : It is not a contrived peace or collaboration. It is rooted in through Jesus. His life opened a window on God's being The root of unity is in the **being of God.** God becoming human, so He became one of us. Jesus. He is revealed in every way in Jesus. He came to unite himself to us.

b)Redemption Jesus was God's envoy and ambassador. It was not that Jesus came offering new information. Rather to offer his life. The sacrifice of his life is an offer of relationship, a hand stretched out from God, that redeems us from pain suffering and sin. All bonds to death and darkness are at once released and cast away in Jesus' death. Jesus is raised from the dead to a new body. In unity with God we rise with him. We cannot have unity through shared doctrines, or through common mission or through agreed lifestyle.. **we can only have it as we are joined to Christ in his death and rising..** and come into relationship with him in every way .This relationship is **is one characterised by love and so intimacy**

2. Intimacy/union v24., 26Jesus knew Gods love from before time began and he wants us to know Gods love and will continue to make it known to us as that our unity with him is a union of intimacy. Knowing that you are completely loved and always have been is what makes us complete. we come into God **as we are,** we take any hidden shame and suffering to him in Jesus' name, our frailty, our failure and He will take them from us and reclothe us in Himself.. with His love, His forgiveness and filling of the Holy Spirit. We take on His nature as we are taken into Him and Filled up with the Spirit who pours out God love into our hearts. (Romans 5:5) **Holy Spirit is single minded,** he wants your heart and nothing less. He does not like to share his accommodation.

Many of us try to find fulfillment, or completeness, ourselves in different ways ; materialism, addictive behaviours. We seek union because God intended us to be in union, oneness with him and with each other through him. But when we don't turn to Him and we try to fill and find completeness else where, we are never satisfied. we know a much greater chasm and sadness and aloneness .God draws us by His love and we are at the same time drawn into union, unity with God the Trinity by a reciprocal response, one of love for God and for one another. John 13 : 34 , 'Love one another as I have loved you'. This unity does have concrete expression. A unity in **which no one and nothing is left out..** Where there is no female/male/ Jew / Greek, slave/free divide.

3.Destiny/calling .v.21,23 to be with Him as one : SO that the world may believe. **This is called the prayer of consecration** : v 17-19 'may be consecrated' .Bultmann : 'consecrate them in truth' **sees this as a separation from the world's ways to God's ways, and so for a life that conforms (1) with His revelation in Christ, and conforms (2) in dedication to serving Him.. in the World.v18** , so in this way they are sent **into the world** : To bear witness and to preach the message as Jesus was sent by the Father into the world.

Bultmann expresses it : ' **the community takes over the assault on the world**, an assault that brings exposure and judgment, and at the same time brings his courtship wooing, of the world .. **John 3:16**, and which continually **opens up for the world the possibility** of faith.' God so loved **the world**.. every corner and gutter and board room and prison cell and palace and cabinet office and famine struck village. And by the love we are filled with, you can go and in every meeting, in every conversation you have in this world whether you are heard or rejected, received or persecuted you are not alone. He is with you and we are with you.

Shared ministries in Dorking and world wide : Youth Alpha.. Churches Together projects. Besom.. Mother's Union

We **cannot plan programme to run the world for Jesus** , but we can reach out and ask God to uproot us, unpin us from the ways we have followed that have been our attempt to find completeness and oneness. We can ask God today to consecrate us make us one with him to live out of his love, out of being with him as we go into the world.

Witness: Questions to discuss

1. Why do you think Jesus made these requests instead of other requests ? What does this reveal about God's love for us ?
2. What is the difference between unity and uniformity ? Does this mean that all religions should come together as one ? If not why not ? Does this mean that all denominations that claim to be Christian should come together as one ? What is the difference between Institutional unity and Holy Spirit Unity, if any ?
3. What impact do Jesus' words about Gods love for him have on you / How do they help you in unity/intimacy/destiny ?
4. This is a good time for confession to Jesus in the light of all he has prayed for us. What has hindered you in unity, intimacy and destiny ? Pray with one another in threes. You may like to make a time to meet and pray with another in or outside your group over something you have struggled with .