

Jesus now prays for all believers v20. Two petitions: v21-23 that they may be one; v24-26 that they may be with me. 'Glory' features in both petitions: *'the glory which you gave me'* v22; *'be with me to see my glory'* v24.

**Unity – the experience of a shared salvation:** Repeats and expands what he's prayed for the Apostles in v11. We come to Christ individually, but salvation is a shared experience. The church is a body, a building, a family, a flock.

- **This shared life reflects the shared life of the Godhead:** v21 *'as you Father are in me and I in you'*. All three Persons of the Godhead have a shared life. We also are to have a shared life.
- **This shared life reveals something of God's glory:** v22 *'the glory which you gave me I have given them'*. The Father displays his glory in his Son, John 1v14. The Son displays some of his glory in us. He is glorified in the lives of ordinary believers as our unity is seen by the watching world.

**What kind of unity?** *'as you, Father, are in me, and I in You'* 21, *'that they may be one just as we are one'* 22.

- **unity dependent upon our union with God & modelled upon the unity of the Godhead:** Unity within the Godhead is the pattern for our unity. 1st: Father & Son. 2<sup>nd</sup>: the Son & believers, 3<sup>rd</sup>: believers with each other. Glued wood, 1Cor.6v17. Things grown together, Rom.6v5. Branches & vine, Jn.15. Head & body, Eph.5v30. Husband & wife, Eph.5v31-32.
- **unity in diversity:** as with the Godhead, so with us. The Persons of the Trinity are distinct (the Father is not the Son, etc). Yet they are one. We are diverse, yet should be one in love, in purpose, in goals, in action, etc.
- **intimate unity:** the unity of the Godhead is of the very closest kind. So we are to be one in thought, desire, affection, sympathy, purpose, etc. 1Cor.12v25-26, Rom.12v9-21, Col.3v12-14, Eph.4v1-3.
- **unity in the truth:** it must be so, v17. If we do not hold the truth we can't be united with him who is truth, 14v6.
- **visible unity:** it must be so, v21b, v23b. Two errors: Organisational error – *'let's build an organisation'* which often results in the sacrifice of truth, leaving the minimum we can agree on. Spiritual error – *'we have a spiritual unity and that's all that matters'*. A cop-out! The NT will not let us leave it there.
- **perfect unity is the goal:** *that they may become perfectly one*, v23 ESV. Only finally achieved in Glory, v24. But it's worth remembering it's the goal. See Eph.4v12-16 which of course follows on from the injunction of 4v3.

**Why is unity so important?** That the world might believe & know, v20, 23. Vital to the credibility of the Gospel. Divisions amongst Christians are a negative witness. Gal.5v20 is a strong word about our thoughts, words & actions. Division may occasionally be inevitable, but should only ever be as a last resort.