

Jesus Prayer for You

In the 17th chapter of John, we find the longest prayer of Jesus recorded in the Bible.

Not only is it his longest prayer, it is the only time he specifically prays for us.
Listen to his prayer, Listen to his heart.

John 17:20-23

Three times in this passage he prays for unity.

Jesus said our unity is a major factor in the world believing the gospel.

UNITY

Be careful! The word can feel passive.

We might assume that if we don't have conflict, we have unity.

But unity is not passive, it is active.

And if we are going to experience it, we have to work for it.

Ephesians 4:1-4

Paul's command is straightforward and direct....“make every effort”...

A church will never drift into “unity” and “peace”.

So, here is the question, “What are some barriers to unity?”

This morning we will consider three barriers.

I. SELFISHNESS

When we are ruled by selfishness, our minds will allow us to
justify anything so long as we get what we want.

a. Selfishness puts a wall between us and God.

We will build a wall between anyone or anything that gets in the way of
our fulfilling our selfish desires.

Philippians 2:3–5 NLT

b. Selfishness overlooks God.

What is important to God is not essential to us. His passion is not our passion.

c. Selflessness seeks the kingdom of God. **Matthew 6:33 NLT**

II. MAJORING ON MINORS

This barrier to unity is often rooted in selfishness. **“I want it the way I like it.”**

Most often the things that divide Christians and divide churches are preferences.

THE WAY I LIKE IT ISN'T THE 'RIGHT' WAY... **it is simply “A” way.**

III. PREJUDICE

There is something in our human nature that wants to be with people like us.

And the dark side of that truth is that we avoid people who are different.

This certainly can be about ethnicity and skin color. **But it can also be about...**

1. Socio-economic status 2. Age 3. Married vs. single 4. How people worship

Prejudice has no place in the body of Christ. None. Period.

Philippians 2:1-4 (Message)

Ask God to help you see if any of these barriers exist in your own life.

And then, pray for the unity of your church.