



The High Priestly Prayer: One People

John 17:20-23

Ray Cortese, April 8 & 9, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read John 17:20-23. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Why did Ray say, "This is our moment... There has never been a better day to be a Christian"? Discuss the following quotes: "The fiercest longing of the soul is to be connected... Community is the one indispensable condition for human flourishing."
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

ONE PEOPLE – THE EXPOSITION

- 3 *The call to community.* What were the divisions that existed in the New Testament church? What divisions still exist today? As a Christian do you tend to focus more on what unites us with other believers or on what divides us?

- 4 *The model for community.* What is the ultimate model for community? Do you treat other members of the church with Trinitarian love and deference? Why should evangelism be like inviting someone to a dance?
- 5 *The mission of community.* Why is community vital to gospel mission? How is God made visible in the world? How have you seen God through the Seven Rivers community?
- 6 *The enabling of community.* Do you view yourself as “the beloved” of God? How does the common experience of unmerited love motivate us to pursue community?

ONE PEOPLE – THE APPLICATION

- 7 *The practice of community.* Why is practicing community hard? Community demands that others matter more than us, that we work at reconciliation, that we hold our tongues, and that we share what we have. Which one of these demands do you find the most challenging?
- 8 *The fruit of community.* When Moses’ arms got tired, Aaron and Hur held them up. Who have you supported/held up lately? Who had supported/held you up?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?