

August 23, 2020

“Transformed: Seeing Life Differently”

“Not Alone, But Together” Core 46

“There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”

Ephesians 4:4-7

A. Jesus prayed...

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one—as You are in Me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me. ‘I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me.’” John 17:20-23

1. Jesus prayed for you personally!

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message.”

2. Jesus prayed we would be one in relationship with one another.

“I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one...”

3. Jesus prayed that we would be one as evidence to the world.

“And may they be in Us so that the world will believe You sent Me.”

4. Jesus gave us His glory.

‘I have given them the glory You gave Me, so they may be one as We are one.

We give God glory:

a. ...when we are trusting God.

“Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.”
Romans 4:20

b. ...when we are producing fruit.

“When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.” John 15:8

c. ...when we are giving thanks.

“But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors (glorifies) Me. If you keep to My path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.” Psalm 50:23

d. ...when we are believing in prayer.

“You can ask for anything in My name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.” John 14:13

e. ...when we are doing good works.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16

5. Jesus gave us Himself so we could be one.

“I am in them and You are in Me.

6. Jesus prayed we would be one to win the world.

“May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me...”

7. Jesus prayed we would be one to show God’s love for the world.

“May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that You sent Me and that You love them as much as You love Me.”

B. Jesus’ prayer for unity meant...

“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” 1 Corinthians 1:10

1. Having a common mindset.

“Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.” Philippians 2:2

2. Having harmony with one another.

“so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:5

3. Doing good to one another.

“Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.”
Galatians 6:10

4. Loving one another.

“Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” Romans 12:10

5. Being united in faith by growth and knowledge of God.

“This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.” Ephesians 4:13

6. Having no barriers for loving.

“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.” 1 Peter 1:22

C. Jesus gave gifts to serve one another...

“However, He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. That is why the Scriptures say, ‘When He ascended to the heights, He led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to His people.’

...Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

...we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4:7-16

1. Jesus gave gifts to build and maintain unity in the body of Christ.

“Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”

2. Jesus gave gifts to use in benefitting the body of Christ.

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly.”

3. Jesus gave gifts for us to give back to God in the service of the church.

“As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

4. Jesus gave gifts for us to give away and not to keep or bless ourselves.

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

5. If you don't know your spiritual gift:

- a. *“Walk into a room...”*
- b. *“...look around...”*
- c. *“...identify what needs to be done that you would enjoy doing with excellence!”*

“This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other... All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:25,27

D. How does each one of us bring unity?

1. Begin praying for unity in your own personal life.
2. Seek to glorify God by your life and choices.
3. Find your spiritual gift.
4. Look for a place to serve, using your gift.
5. Serve joyfully, without criticizing, in unity with one another!

Dear Lord Jesus,

You are our Prince of Peace and You prayed for unity in the body of Christ. You prayed that we may be united in love just as you are united with the Father in love.

Give us that same desire to love one another as You have loved us. Let the world know that we are Your disciples by our love for one another. Help us to be united in our thinking with a desire to build unity. Help us to value harmony over having our own way. Guide us in ways we can do good to one another. Build in us a deep love for one another with a growing faith and a growing knowledge of You. Help us to use our gifts to serve one another and build up the body of Christ. Let the world see us a unified family of believers that they may know how much God loves them.

In Jesus Name, Amen

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202

New Week:

August 30: “Transformed: Seeing Life Differently”

“Not About Me, But Him” Core 47