

The Awesome Power of Vision – Part 3
“The Importance of Unity”

The night before Jesus died on the cross, he took the 12 men that he'd been training for his entire ministry to a place where they could share the Passover meal together.

Now, during the Passover meal, Jesus redefined the Passover with new meaning to become the Lord's Supper. During the Lord's Supper, Judas left the room to betray Jesus and to have him arrested. **So Jesus knows that he's going to be dead and buried within 24 hours. He knows whatever he's going to say now would be his last words before death.**

Now, you know that the last words of dying people are always extremely important...chapter 13 to chapter 17. **Those five chapters in John are called the Upper Room Discourse.**

Now, in those five chapters, the two themes that Jesus spoke the most about were, number one, **how much he loves us**. And number two, how much **we must love each other in the Church. In fact, love is mentioned 21 times.**

Jesus: “Again, this is what I’m commanding you to do: You must love each other!” John 15:12

“I am not praying for the world, but for those you’ve given me, because they belong to you. Now I am departing the world and I’m leaving them behind. ...Father, protect them by the power of your name so that they may be united as one just as we are one.” John 17:9, 11

He was praying for us too!

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will believe in me because of their testimony. And my prayer for all of them is that they too will be one – just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me.” John 17:20-21

MY UNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS IS A PROOF THAT I’M SAVED

"I'm giving you a new commandment: you must love each other! You must love each other in the same way that I have loved you. Your love for one another will be the proof to the world that you really are my disciples."

John 13:34-35

THE TRINITY IS OUR MODEL FOR UNITY

"Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one with each other as we are one." John 17:11b (NIV)

JESUS' LAST PRAYER WAS THAT WE'D LIVE IN UNITY

"My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father — that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me." John 17:21 (LB)

OUR UNITY IS OUR GREATEST WITNESS TO UNBELIEVERS

"...may they be brought into complete unity so that the world knows that you sent me and that you have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17:23 (NIV)

UNITY REMOVES FEAR AND CREATES BOLDNESS

"Then all the believers united together in prayer. After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook and they were all filled with God's Holy Spirit. And they began to speak God's message with boldness." Acts 4:24, 31 (LB)

FOCUSING ON OUR COMMON PURPOSE CREATES UNITY

"Dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves! Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

UNITY BEGINS WHEN WE REALIZE WE'RE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT EACH OTHER

"Yes, we're all different parts in Christ's Body, but there's still only one body! So the eye can't say to the hand, 'I don't need you' and the head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' There must never be any division in the body allowed. Instead, all the members must care for each other equally."

1 Corinthians 12:20-21, 25 (NLT)

“When one part of the body suffers, every other part is to suffer with it. And when one part of the Body is honored, every other part is to rejoice with it! Together you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that Body!” 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

JESUS DIED TO UNITE US, NOT DIVIDE US

“By his death on the cross Christ reconciled us and united different races into one body, He brought us all back to God, ending the hostility.”

Ephesians 2:16 (TEV)

JESUS EXPECTS ME TO WORK HARD AT BEING IN UNITY WITH MY CHURCH FAMILY.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. Bind yourselves together by living in peace with each other.” Ephesians 4:3

Unity requires WORK!

“Most important of all, love each other! Love is what holds you all together in perfect unity.” Colossians 3:14