

## Sermon Title: **“UNITED LIKE THE TRINITY”**

John 17:1-26

- The Bible opens with 4 powerful words – “In the beginning God”
  - Before ANYTHING was created, God lacked NOTHING (God needed NOTHING, God was in perfect union with Himself)
- The Trinity enjoyed flawless fellowship, in perfect harmony, united in unbreakable bonds of love
- Together, we get to link arms & face life with the goal of bringing God as much glory as possible
- Jesus prays for His followers to be ONE ... just as the Trinity is ONE
- That those followers might be perfected in unity, so that the entire world may know that Jesus was sent by God
- Unity ISN'T optional!
- God wants those who follow Him to be unified to Himself (that's why Jesus came to this earth in the first place)
- Jesus was about to willingly lay down His life as a once-for-all sacrifice
- God's ALWAYS been about uniting His children to Himself
- Knowing He would soon be leaving, Jesus prays, for God to bind those who follow Him to their Heavenly Father
- NOT only does our relationship with Jesus unite us to God – it unites us to each other, through the Holy Spirit
- God the Father sent Jesus into the world with the purpose to rescue & redeem mankind
  - Now believers have been sent into the world with the purpose to point people to a relationship with Jesus (which will rescue & redeem)
- This mission is to be done unified, together in Christ – in ONE body, on ONE mission, with ONE purpose
  - & as believers unite & come together, the world will take notice!
  - The Church would be so winsome & attractive because it would look so different from the sin-plagued world
  - This type of unity (which we are called to demonstrate) has incredibly powerful implications
- In unity, believers MUST love our Lord & one another & doing this will glorify our Heavenly Father
  - If God's body (the Church) is fractured & squabbling, how attractive is that to the outside, ever-watching world?
  - If God's body (the Church) is divided, NOT in step & NOT in sync with each other, why would anyone want to be a part of that?
- God's Body (the Church), which it's functioning like it should be ...
  - NO one has ANY need
  - NO ministry or outreach is EVER understaffed
  - NO issue we face CAN'T be resolved
- This bond that you & I share, is to be equal to the bond of the Trinity
  - A bond, united in flawless fellowship
  - A bond, in perfect harmony, united in unbreakable bonds of love