

WORSHIP

Sermon | 5.17.2020



Indivisible

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John 17:9-23

The world has a knack for dividing humanity. It is relentless in beckoning us to choose sides. As a matter of fact, it thrives on doing so. We separate based on socio-economic status, level of education, color of our skin, political affiliations, and all sorts of other preferences and likes, dislikes for that matter. This is to be expected by the world considering texts like 1 John 5:9 makes it absolutely clear that the entire world is under the sway of Satan. But this is shocking when this reality exists broadly among the people of God. Scripture is adamant in its call for oneness among the disciples of Jesus Christ and I must admit, it seems to be a fleeting. To set the stage properly let me share a few, of what I call, monumental texts on oneness.

Duet. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

Gen 2:24, Matt 19:5, Mark 10:7, Eph 5:31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Gal 3:26-28 “

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



One God, one flesh, one people. Oneness. In the Greek the word for one is *heis* (*hice*) and in our context it means to be indivisible, to be united most closely in will, in spirit. In this prayer Jesus prays for this for his disciples, contextually, and all who would become his disciples in the future, us. Though this prayer contains many other critical truths this aspect of his prayer is most repetitive. And so it is, I want to place our focus there this morning. In doing so, I want to share three reasons why oneness amongst believers was of priority for our Lord.

Reason 1 is very practical. A house divided cannot stand. By nature, we are tribal people. Left to ourselves we will naturally seek out persons who look like us, think like us, believe what we believe, live where we live, like the things we like, etc. It is not my argument that this is inherently wrong, but when it trumps the mission of the gospel, to reach all people, it is utterly sinful. And when we parse ourselves like this we are vulnerable. Vulnerable to narrowed mindedness. Vulnerable to false doctrine. Vulnerable to divisiveness. Certainly, we are not all the same, but just as certain we are all recipients of one faith, one baptism, one Holy Spirit through our one Lord Jesus Christ. We are in him and he is in us. And since this be the case, we must ask why so much divisiveness, and so often over the most trivial matters. It is sad commentary that the worship hour is still the most segregated hour in the world.

Matt 12:25-26 ““Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

1 Cor 12:15-20 “15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.



Reason 2, oneness, or indivisibility, is a foundational characteristic of God and thus must be a foundational characteristic of God's people. We notice that Jesus' repetition in his prayer for our oneness is in relation to his oneness with the Father (V11,21,22,23). This is spiritual oneness, a oneness in will and purpose. We who believe in the Son believe that the Son was sent by the Father. We believe as Paul has written in Gal 3:27 for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. We believe, as scriptures declares, that God and Son are one and thru faith in the Son God has taken up residence in us (1 Cor 3 & 6). Thus, we are one with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in will and purpose. Just as the Son cannot be separate from the Father, we cannot be separated from the Son and by the Son are eternally linked to the Father, sealed by his Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:15-17 "15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

Eph 4:5-6 " one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Jesus prays for our oneness because it is tantamount to the mission. Verse 23 "that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me". Church the mission trumps everything. It trumps our preferences, it trumps our likes, it trumps the color of our skin, it trumps our nationality, it trumps our socio-economic status, it trumps what side of town we live, it trumps worship style, it trumps denominationalism, etc. The mission trumps everything!

Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Apostolic, Holiness, Nondenominational, Presbyterian, Protestant or Catholic. Thru faith in Jesus Christ we are one and the mission demands it. Church, INDIVISIBLE!

