

Wednesday 27th May 2020

Father, Son and Holy Spirit just as you are one help us to be one, one church, one faith, one body of Christ.

John 17:1-11

Jesus explicitly claims to be one with God. What does this oneness with God mean? For one thing it means that Jesus and God share the same glory. Glory comes from being in the presence of God. So Jesus reflects the Father's glory because he was in the presence of God. Oneness also means that when Jesus spoke he was communicating the word of the Father. So both the signs and explanations that we read about in the Gospel of John are both not just from Jesus but also from God and in this sense Jesus and God are one. But oneness goes beyond what Jesus did and said. The scripture passage tells us that Jesus has been with God from before creation. In the beginning Jesus already existed with God. So oneness means that everything Jesus said and did was from God with whom Jesus has always existed and will exist forever. So, Jesus talks, acts, and exists in oneness with God. Knowledge that leads to Eternal Life. Jesus spoke not just from scripture, but from God himself. And it is through the knowledge of God that Jesus can provide what we need to receive the gift of eternal life.

So Jesus not only reveals knowledge of God to us but reveals to all believer's knowledge that results in eternal life. So what is this knowledge of God that Jesus reveals to all believers? The knowledge Jesus was giving the believers throughout the Gospel of John was contained in those two simple words, "I am". So, if we believe that Jesus and God are one then we will have eternal life. What Jesus wants and asked the Father to do is to make all of his believers one just as Jesus and God are one. Here Jesus is calling for the unity of the church. The oneness of the church is not something that we can do alone without a clear resolution. What we need is a gift. Unity in the church is a gift from God. So there is one thing we can all do. We can imitate Jesus and pray. Pray that the entire church will confess that Jesus is one with God and trust that one day God will make all of us one with Christ.

The song "They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love." Do we really walk with each other, walk hand in hand? Do we really work with each other, work side by side? We will if all of praise, honor and glory is given the one Father, Son and Holy Spirit whom we worship today. And that is why everyone who believes that Jesus Christ is one with God is welcomed to be one.

O God, you are the giver of life. We pray for the church in the whole world. Give strength to those who are searching together for that kind of obedience which creates unity. Heal the divisions separating your children one from another, so that they will make fast, with bonds of peace, the unity which the Spirit gives. Amen.