

JESUS' INTERCESSION FOR THE *UNITY* OF THE CHURCH
(John 17:20-23)

- I. The SOURCE of True Unity (John 17:20)
 - A. This would require the DIVINE work of the FATHER (v. 11)
 - B. He's praying for those "who BELIEVE IN ME"
 - 1. ONLY those chosen by the Father CAN come to Him (v. 6; 6:44)
 - 2. ALL of those chosen by the Father WILL come to Him (cf. 6:39)
 - 3. Every one of the elect MUST BELIEVE
 - C. Their faith would come through the ministry of the APOSTLES

- II. The REQUEST for True Unity (John 17:21a)
 - A. We ARE unified by being united in CHRIST
 - B. Affiliation in various DENOMINATIONS is not DISUNITY
 - [C. Paul lists seven aspects of Christian UNITY (Eph. 4:4-6)]
 - 1. All believers comprise "one BODY"
 - 2. All believers are united through "one SPIRIT"
 - 3. All believers share "one HOPE"
 - 4. All believers are united in "one LORD"
 - 5. All believers are united in "one FAITH"
 - 6. All believers are united in "one BAPTISM"

7. All believers are united in “one GOD and Father of all who is OVER all and THROUGH all and IN all”

III. The MODEL of True Unity (John 17:21*b*, 22-23*a*)

- A. The Father and the Son are unified in MOTIVE (17:1, 4, 5)
- B. The Father and the Son are unified in MISSION (17:2-4, 6)
- C. The Father and the Son are unified in TRUTH (17:8, 17*b*)
- D. The Father and the Son are unified in HOLINESS (17:11, 25)
- E. The Father and the Son are unified in LOVE (17:24; cf. 5:20)

IV. The RESULT of True Unity (John 17:21*c*, 23*b*)

- A. The world may BELIEVE that the Father SENT Jesus
- B. The world may know that the Father LOVES the BELIEVERS