

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 17:1-26)

1. Jesus prayer recorded in John 17:1-26 is often referred to as "The High Priestly Prayer."
As you consider the role of the High Priest in Scripture and the words of Jesus' prayer, why is this name so fitting?
Is there anything in this prayer that helps to shape how we approach Our Heavenly Father?
(If it helps, Consider Hebrews 4:14-5:10, 7:1-8:6)
Does this prayer inspire you to pray differently or with more frequency than you currently do?
2. There are many things that we can learn about Jesus in looking at the words recorded by John in this prayer.
What can we learn about His relationship with the Father?
What do we see as His motivation in all things?
What do we learn about Jesus authority at this point in time?
What do we learn about the work of Jesus on the earth?
What does this prayer reveal about His passions and desires?
Based upon what He asks the Father for - what would you say are His clear passions and desires?
Do you feel that you personally share those desires?
How about the Church - as you observe what Jesus prioritizes in this prayer, does His Church share His values/priorities?
(Consider "The Church" as followers of Jesus around the world and also The Body of Christ here at New Hope).
What else stands out to you specifically about this prayer?
3. Jesus prays for Himself through verse 5, for His disciples from verses 6-19, and for ALL believers to come after from verses 20-26.
How do these sections differ, one from another, and what thematic similarities do you see?
What do you make of the fact that He specifically prays for believers only and NOT the world?
Is that a pattern that we should follow as well, or is that specific to this prayer & to the work of The Lord Jesus Himself?
Why do you feel that way?
What do we learn about the sanctification through Jesus' request?
Who is active in our sanctification?
What is the means by which we are able to be sanctified?
Why does sanctification matter in the lives of those who believe in Jesus?
Based upon these things - what tangible steps can we take to grow in our sanctification (i.e. be more like Jesus)?
4. One of the most clear desires of our Lord in this prayer (and throughout His earthly ministry) is that His followers be united as one!
As you read His requests of the Father, He makes it clear HOW we are to be one?
How is unity ("oneness") accomplished and maintained within the Body of Christ?
What responsibility do the individual members of the Church have in pursuing, maintaining, & keeping unity?
Why is the unity of His followers such a strong desire of Jesus?

How does God use our unity to impact those in the world around us (I.e. the world outside of the Church)?

Could this be part of why He prays so fervently for the Father to make us One?

What tools has our Lord graciously provided to enable us to be genuinely "one"?

As you look at The Church (& New Hope specifically as well) - how are we doing on this?

What are some intentional steps that we can take in order to better unite?

What must our posture be toward each other, and how does the Gospel provide both a perspective & motivation for us?

Do you have any broken, hurting, fractured relationships with brothers or sisters in Christ that need reconciliation?

How is the Lord calling you to be a part of the restoration of that relationship for there to be unity in the Church?

Are there ever biblically justifiable reasons to break unity with somebody claiming to be a brother or sister in Christ?

(Consider false teachers, those who persist in sin when confronted (1 Cor. 5), etc.)

(Also consider the many ways we might break unity that are clearly NOT biblically justifiable, we divide over:

non-essential doctrines, politics, unforgiveness/hardness of heart, resentment, personal preferences (musical taste, etc.) (James 4:1)).

IMPORTANT QUESTION: How can we rise above our differences and choose unity in the bond of peace through Jesus?

5. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. Jesus is the eternal Son of God & one with the Father!
2. To know God the Father and the Son is eternal life!
3. Jesus prays for the Father to sanctify us in His Word!
4. Jesus asks the Father to give perfect unity to us as one!
5. God uses our unity to cause the world believe in Jesus!