

## A Formula for Unity

In John 17, the Scripture records the Lord's prayer on the night in which He was betrayed. He prayed for His apostles, and then he prayed for others who would believe in Him. Notice His words in verses 20-23:

<sup>20</sup>"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup>that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup>And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup>I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."

All that Jesus had prayed for His apostles He also prayed for those of us who believe today. Notice His requests in the previous verses:

- In verse 11, He requested, "Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."
- In verse 15, He said, "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."
- In verse 17, He said, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

These are the basis for unity given by Jesus. Carefully consider this as a formula for unity among the disciples of Christ.

- The disciples must remain in the name of God. In other words, we must all live according to the power and authority of God in order to have unity with one another.
- The disciples must keep away from the devil. His ambition is to divide disciples against one another by any means in order to tear down the Lord's church.
- The disciples must be sanctified, or made holy, in the truth of God's word. This not merely a matter of possessing the word of God, but it is a matter of performing the word.

We have the ability to fulfill Christ's prayer by:

- Living in the name of the Father
- Keeping away from the devil
- Being sanctified in God's word

Are you following the Lord's formula for unity?

1 Corinthians 1:10 – Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.