

## One in Christ

### Scripture

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”  
(John 17:20-23 AV)

### Commentary

Jesus extends His love to us by including us in His prayer as He says, “But for them also which shall believe on me through their word. This is for you dear friend. Consider what our Lord prayed.

He prays that we might be one in Christ as He was in the Father and the Father was in Him. He is not talking ontologically here but spiritually of the unity of the faith. Going beyond this, there is a likeness to the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but not an exact replica for that would mean we would become God as all three persons of the Godhead are one God.

However, what glory God has been bestowed upon us! He did this that the world would know that the Father sent the Son, and has loved us as He has loved Christ. Let us never do anything to damage this testimony.

We dare not sacrifice holiness under the pretense of unity. We could never be one with Christ if we practice sin. Instead, we must cling to holiness in ourselves and others. Holiness in Christ is our bond. “. . . For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (2Co 6:14 NKJV)

It is high time in these spiritually dark days that the people of God unite in one purpose to purge ourselves of sin and to hold each other accountable. Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. You will see that the church feared God because sin was disciplined quickly. This is the only way we can be one in Christ. We must be holy!

Why would anyone know that the Father has sent Christ if He has no impact on our lives? I am often ashamed of my behavior. Sin does indeed beset us easily. However, we must never give into its lusts. “For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Ro 8:13-14 NKJV)

Are you walking in unity? If you are, then you are walking in holiness. Allowing sin in the church to avoid a confrontation is not what Christ meant when He prayed that we might be one. Ananias and Sapphira prove that. “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” (Heb 12:1 NKJV) Then, the world will see Christ in us.