**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. July 5, 2020**

**The Power And Purpose of Unity**

John 17:9-23

**Key Truth:** Unity is a byproduct of our rebirth and oneness in Jesus Christ.

**The Prayer of Jesus For His Disciples Then and Now:**

1. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be protected from the

 evil one.

2. Jesus prayed for His disciples’ sanctification in the

 world.

3. Jesus prayed for the unity of all of His disciples.

4. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be reunited with Him

 for all eternity.

**What Are The Practical Implications of Jesus Prayer?**

1. Disunity will hinder the work God wants to do through

 His church.

2. As Christians, our allegiance and alliance are to the

 Kingdom of God and not the kingdoms of this world.

3. Our unity supersedes our languages, cultures, family,

 and ethnicity.

4. Jesus is praying for a Biblical unity that shows up visibly

 in the world.

5. Our Christian unity lends credibility to the message of

 the church.

6. It is the Holy Spirit that fosters and maintains our

 Christian unity.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls**: Thank God for the hope we have in Jesus Christ. Align our life and prayers with those of Jesus Christ. Let’s be the visible expression and answer to Jesus’ prayer.

**Food For Thought**

In what ways does Jesus’ prayer in John 17 change your view of prayer? How does it change your hope?

In what ways should our confidence be strengthened, knowing that Jesus is praying for us?

What is most difficult for you in admitting your complete dependency on God? How is prayer fundamentally about such a recognition?

When you find yourself in a hopeless situation, how does it affect your prayer life? How does it affect your dependence on Jesus’ prayer for you?

Read Romans 16:17-20: What is Paul instructing the believers to do, in regard to people who cause division in the church? Why is his instruction important?

Read James 4:1-10: James is describing what division and quarreling looks like in the church, when our hearts are not fully devoted to Jesus. What instructions does James give in defeating the confusion and fighting in the body of Christ?