

Series: The Prayer of Jesus; *Sermon:* **Real Christian Unity**
Delivered on September 29, 2019, by Josh Moody, senior pastor

Bible text explored: John 17:11

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Why could Jesus pray as if he were already “no longer in the world”?
2. On the other hand, in what kind of world are we assigned to remain for now?
What are some groupings that are “at each others’ throats” in our world?
What forms of tension are we increasingly facing?

The first step to achieving real Christian unity, Pastor Moody said, is to discern the basic issues at stake.

3. Since sin has broken relationships with God and with each other, what common expectations are unrealistic?
When engaged in conversations or reading the headlines, how can identifying underlying heart motivations help us grasp what is really going on?
4. The form of address Jesus uses here—“Holy Father”—is found nowhere else in the New Testament. What does each word suggest about remoteness or nearness?
What does each suggest emotionally?
5. How does bearing the name of the Father invite us to experience intimacy with God similar to the oneness shared by Jesus and the Father?
How will acting in his name enable us to do so with his authority?
6. What outcome did Jesus anticipate from our being kept in God’s name?
7. In terms of conformity, what does “being one” *not* involve?
How have you sensed oneness with a believer from a different culture?
What *does* “being one” require at heart level?
How does the unity of husbands and wives with differing personalities illustrate this?
8. What part of fulfilling Jesus’ prayer for us is up to us? (See *Eph. 4:3.*)
When was the last time you said “I’m sorry” or “I forgive you”?
9. Abraham Lincoln—as portrayed in the Steven Spielberg film, *Lincoln*, and the Doris Kearns Goodwin book, *Team of Rivals*—deftly drew his opponents into a cabinet to work together for one overriding goal. How could Lincoln’s example inspire us to look up and become part of the answer to Jesus’ prayer?