

Series: **One Body**

One Life

Dr. Les Hughes

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Scripture: John 17:20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Group Session

Opening Questions

Many people are feeling disconnected and depressed today. What are the things that burden you the most these days? How does it affect you emotionally? How would Jesus have us look at this situation?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. The message today focused on the life that's possible in Christ regardless of the circumstances. How can we know that God's plan for us is best?
2. The life Jesus wants for us is a life of unity and not division. Read the passage above and share any thoughts or feelings you have after reading Jesus' prayer for us.
3. Sometimes we accept being disconnected from a person to whom we need to experience connection.
 - a. What makes us accept and live with being divided?
 - b. What things can we do to reestablish connection with those people?
4. One thing that causes division is when we assume someone meant harm to us when maybe they didn't. We often don't assume the best intentions in others. Have you ever been guilty of this?

5. Read the following passage and listen for the result of praying for those in authority.

1 Timothy 2:1-3a

¹I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior...

a. What is the result of praying for those in authority?

b. How can we be obedient to this passage when our government seems opposed to our well-being or best interest?

6. We are to have hope because of the presence of Christ in our lives. How can we be successful in feeling hope from Christ's presence? Or adversely, what keeps believers from experiencing this?

7. In what ways are we allowing God's word to impact our minds and hearts? Will someone share about your quiet time and how it empowers you to live a life of unity?

Closing Challenge

What is one thing you will do this week to walk in unity with other Christ followers?