BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

May We Be One

On the sermon **"May We Be One"** by **Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell**, 2819 Church, Atlanta
September 20, 2026 · John 17:1-23

JOHN 17:20-23 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."

Big idea: The night before the cross, Jesus prayed for what you need most: life in Him, a life changed by His Word, and oneness with His people.

KEY POINTS FROM THE SERMON

1. **Not what you'd expect (John 17:20-21).** Jesus' first request for future believers "was not for you to be blessed. He did not pray for you to get money… He did not pray for healing." He prayed that they "may all be one."
2. **Eternal life is only in Christ (John 17:2-3).** "There is no eternal life outside of Christ… There is no reincarnation… There is no purgatory. There is no second chance." Eternal life is to know "the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).
3. **The eternal Son took true flesh from Mary (John 17:5; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4).** Jesus shared the Father's glory "before the world existed." Pastor Mitchell: "He just borrowed a womb. And then borrow the tomb."
4. **Sanctify them in the truth (John 17:17).** "To be sanctified is to be transformed little by little from the inside out through the constant contact with God's word." The goal: "when you die you look like the person who saved you" (Romans 8:29).
5. **Unity is not uniformity (John 17:21-23).** "Unity does not mean we agree about everything. That's called uniformity." Believers can "have minor disagreements and still have unity," so that the world may believe.

WHERE IS CHRIST?

- **The praying High Priest.** In John 17 Jesus is praying for His people, and for you who believe "through their word" (John 17:20). He still intercedes for us (Hebrews 7:25).
- **The eternal Son made flesh.** He shared the Father's glory "before the world existed" (John 17:5), then "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14) to give eternal life: to know the Father "and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).
- **He sanctifies Himself for us.** "For their sake I consecrate myself" (John 17:19). Our growth rests on His work, and He prays that believers "also may be in us" (John 17:21). We "maintain the unity" (Ephesians 4:3); we do not create it. Pastor Mitchell cites what "theologians call the unanswered prayers of Jesus," yet the Father always hears the Son (John 11:42).

DISCUSS OR REFLECT

1. Pastor Mitchell notes what Jesus did not pray for first: money, a spouse, healing. What do you usually pray for first? What does John 17 teach you to ask for?
2. Read John 17:3. How is eternal life more than living forever?
3. Pastor Mitchell says sanctification happens "little by little… through the constant contact with God's word." What does that contact look like in your week?
4. Who is praying in John 17:17-19? How does that change the pressure you feel to grow?
5. "Unity does not mean we agree about everything." Where have you confused unity with uniformity?
6. Revelation 7:9 pictures "a great multitude… from every nation." How can your church reflect that now?

APPLICATION (WHAT CAN I DO OR PRAY FOR?)

Read John 17 out loud this week (about five minutes). Slow down at John 17:20: that is Jesus praying for you. Then reach out to one believer you have drifted from, and be with your local church on Sunday.

Go deeper: Find more sermons from Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell on the 2819 Church YouTube channel, **youtube.com/@2819Church**, and at **2819church.org**

Father, thank You that the night before the cross Your Son prayed for us. Give us life in Him, sanctify us in Your truth, and make us one with Your people, so that the world may believe that You sent Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

John 17:1-23 · John 1:14 · Galatians 4:4 · Romans 8:29 · John 11:42 · Hebrews 7:25 · Ephesians 4:3 · Revelation 7:9

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"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (Luke 24:32)

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