

## UNITY IN CHRIST

Introduction – The gospel of John contains many teachings and a final prayer of Jesus on the night of the Last Supper.

John 17:20-23

- A. Unity is essential for us to reach a lost world.
  - 1. The splintered denominational world is a hindrance to the spread of the gospel.
  - 2. We need to focus on our core beliefs that we have in common with others, rather than our differences.
  - 3. Congregations must be unified before they can successfully reach others.
- B. This is a God-centered unity.
  - 1. The unique Christian perspective on the nature of God is that three distinct personalities are one.
  - 2. Unity does not require total conformity or becoming an enmeshed group.
  - 3. Without losing our unique individuality we learn how to function in a unified way.
- C. The given glory is the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. We all receive the indwelling Spirit as a gift at our faith baptism into Christ.
  - 2. We are sent like Jesus into the world to sacrifice ourselves for the gospel.

John 20:21-23

Conclusion – Most congregations are small and homogeneous because it is easy to maintain unity. Only a Christ-like attitude can help us become united enough to reach the lost of New Jersey