UNEXPECTED PEOPLE

JOHN 17:20-26

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, ask, believe, word, one, Father, sent, glory, world, loved, desire, foundation of the world, righteous, known, name, continue, prayer

Introduction

It is an amazing gift to know that someone is praying for you. When you are going through a tough time, it can be a great comfort to know that someone is lifting you up in prayer. And when things are going well, it is nice to know that someone is thanking God for you. Prayer is a powerful thing. Jesus himself prayed for the disciples, and here he prays for an UNEXPECTED PEOPLE. Jesus still prays for you now.

Hours before his death, Jesus took the time to pray for you. God's word is the way Jesus forms his people and love is the identifying mark of those who know him. Jesus loves his people and he longs to be with them. Never forget the love he has for you and the love he wants you to have for others.

Outline

Jesus forms his people through his word (v. 20).

Christian unity shows that Jesus makes a difference (v. 21).

Unity has limits–it is not compromise or uniformity (v. 22).

The child of God never has to doubt the love of the Father (v. 23).

Jesus' prayer should give us confidence about heaven (v.24).

Jesus won't stop loving you and we shouldn't stop loving others (v. 26).

Application

Was Jesus praying for you in this passage?

Do you long to be with Jesus?

Are you making Jesus known to those around you?

Questions

1. What unbelievers are you praying for right now? How does Jesus' prayer encourage you in your prayers?
2. What does Christian unity look like? (Ephesians 4:1-7) Are there any beliefs or doctrines where you draw the dividing line for unity? Why?
3. How does knowing that the Father loves you the same way he loves Jesus make you feel?
4. When you think of heaven, how do you imagine the smile of Jesus and his glory? How should that change the way we think about death and grieving?
5. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. How does this passage help us understand the prayer of Jesus?