

“THE LORD’S PETITION FOR OUR SPIRITUAL UNITY”
JOHN 17:20-21

I. THE NATURE OF THE ONENESS [UNITY] THAT THE LORD DESIRES TO SEE (17:20-21b)

A. Institutional And Organizational Oneness Advocates See Denominations As A Scourge To The Lord’s Petition

B. Institutional And Organizational Oneness Advocates Fail To Reckon With The Lord’s Description Of The Ones For Whose Unity He Is Praying

1. They Are Those Who Believed in The Words Of The Apostolic Testimony (17:20)

2. They Are Those Who Would Subscribe To Doctrinal Accurateness And Knowledge Of The Son Of God As He Actually Exists

3. They Are Those Who Enjoy A Spiritual Unity Of Essence Patterned After The Members Of The Godhead (17:21)

a. Though The Analogy Cannot Be Exact, It Is The Closest Possible Parallel To The Oneness The Lord Is Praying For

b. It Is Not A Unity Of Function But Of Nature

(1) Also Illustrated In A Body

(2) Also Illustrated In A Vine

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE ONENESS [UNITY] THAT THE LORD DESIRES TO SEE HAS TO DO WITH EVANGELISM (17:21b)

A. How It Works

1. Maintenance Of Doctrinal Unity (Ephesians 4:3-6)

2. Maintenance Of Relational Unity (Philippians 4:2)

3. Maintenance Of Ministerial Unity (I Corinthians 1:10-13)

B. Why It Works