

MAKING SENSE OF JOHN 17.20-26

(Adapted from Life Application Bible Commentary: John)

Verse 20: Jesus is praying for the disciples and everyone who will come to believe in him through the disciples' writings in the New Testament and their establishing the Christian Church.

Verse 21: In his prayer, Jesus made 3 requests:

- 1) All believers would be united by their similar obedience, love, and commitment to God's will.
- 2) Believers would be unified by each
 - +having unity with Jesus and God and by
 - +believing God sent Jesus to save the world.
- 3) All would receive Jesus as their Savior.

Verse 22: Jesus completed his mission by revealing God's character to all believers, so:

- +God would be real enough for each to share his or her beliefs in God with others and
- +Greater unity would evolve from believers having a relationship with Christ in common.

Verse 23: A complete and perfect unity between God and believers results in a worldwide:

- +belief stemming from the Holy Spirit inspiring one's witness to others and
- +knowledge of God sending Jesus and God loving everyone with the same eternal love God has for Jesus.

Verse 24: We are assured of Jesus' desire for all believers to be:

- +with him and see his glory,
- +united with him and God now.
- +with him for an eternity to enjoy his love for God

Verse 25: Jesus addressed God as Righteous Father in recognition of the tremendous gap between God and the world. Our Savior is the living connection between unbelievers and his just and loving Father.

Verse 26: The disciples recognized God was communicating through Christ, but the world didn't believe God sent Jesus who:

- +revealed God to the disciples and us,
- +asked God to love the disciples and us with the same love God had for Christ.

8 Points to Ponder:

- 1) If God were to fully answer Jesus' prayer, what would:
 - +the worldwide church look like?
 - +Zion look like?
 - +Zion's witness to the world look like?
 - +my witness to the world look like?
- 2) What is Zion's response to Jesus' prayer?
What is my response to Jesus' prayer?
- 3) Does knowing Jesus prays for me enable me to be more confident in my sharing Jesus with others?
- 4) Is God real enough for me to seek to share my beliefs about God with others? If not, what would help make God seem more real to me?
- 5) Do I seek the Holy Spirit to empower my witness to others?
- 6) Is my life impacted by my knowing:
 - +Jesus wants me to be with him for eternity and
 - +God loves me as much as God loves Jesus?
- 7) What can I do through the power of the Holy Spirit to increase my desire and eagerness to narrow the gap between God and unbelievers?
- 8) What else do I want Jesus to reveal to me about God?