

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: March 19, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: St. John 17: 20-26
Topic: The Church On Mission – Resource for All	

This portion of John's gospel is one that takes an intimate look at Jesus at prayer. In what is commonly referred to as Christ's '*high priestly prayer*,' our Lord prays for:

- ❑ Himself – (verses 1-5)
- ❑ His disciples - (verses 6-19)
- ❑ All believers, including future believers – (verses 20-26)

In verses 20-23, Jesus was expressing a desire that disciples might come to know a special harmony with God as well as with the saints. Jesus knew that the unity and harmony of believers would positively impact the world and he therefore emphasized the importance of unity among His followers as displayed by the unity between Himself (Jesus) and His Father. In essence, Jesus wanted His disciples to establish communion to communicate Christ, which was central to achieving unity. The emphasis on unity was connected not only to the mission Jesus was sent to accomplish, but also that of God's love for people and for His Son. The fact therefore is that Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace came and showed us how to create harmony so that we can communicate his peace.



Jesus also prayed (*verse 24*) that we come to know that special home. This particular verse represented Jesus' will and testament for believers to be where He (Jesus) was. In other words, it was Jesus' desire for us to be in His presence and to dwell in His eternal glory. A complete understanding of the full measure of Christ leads to a greater desire on our part to want to be where Christ is, and so Jesus was in essence praying for us to achieve comprehension to celebrate Christ. Jesus was also very aware of the need for hope to revive us and to keep us longing for that day when we would be at home with Him. The fact is that He Jesus - the Prince of Peace is coming back again.

In verses 25-26, Jesus' prayer continues as he desires that we come to know special happiness through the acceptance of Christ and through the advancement of continuously knowing Christ. While there may be many who didn't know God personally, they knew that God had sent Christ. Jesus desired that believers would know the same love that existed between himself and God. These verses saw Jesus praying for closeness to be comforted by Christ and to see that we are not alone because Jesus following His ascension sent us another comforter. The fact is that Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace cares about us.

Jesus cares about people and He knows the importance of unity and the tremendous impact that believers working in harmony can make. Jesus prayed that we as believers would be made richer in our:

- ❑ Witness
- ❑ Worship
- ❑ Warmth in Christ