

# “Praying for Sanctification”

**Sermon Submission Info:** whitesrun / easterday

**Speaker:** Eric Newcomer

**SubTitle/Series/Album:** We Have Seen His Glory

**Track Number:** 43

**Date Preached:** 07/05/2020

**Event Category:** Recorded for online and presented in 11:00 worship

**Bible Reference:** John 17:13-19

**File:** Abiding in Christ John 14 to 17.docx

## I) Introduction:

- A) **Slide 1, Welcome, MAIN,**
- B) John 17 – Prayer of Jesus for disciples – including us. Use as a model for answered prayer – praying in his name, that is according to his will.
- C) So far – praying for glory, praying for keeps,
- D) **Big Idea:** We should pray that the revelation of the reality of Jesus Christ that is found in His Word will make us more Christlike and more dedicated to God and His purposes.
- E) **LOGOS READ John 17:13-19 (:00)**
- F) **MAIN**
- G) John 17:17, “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
- H) Sanctify – underlined – an imperative.

## II) Sanctify

- A) Verse 11, “Holy Father, keep them in your name...” connection to holiness, because this is what he requests – verse 11, only place in scripture he is called Holy Father, verse 17 – sanctify them, Holify them – the same word group, verse 11 an adjective describing the Father, verse 17 a verb requesting the same be done to us!
- B) **Split/SLIDE – Sanctify,**
- C) To be made holy.
  - 1) To set apart – context of scripture – set apart unto God.
  - 2) “To be set apart unto God.”

- 3) Sanctification is used broadly of the whole Christian experience – including regeneration, justification, glorification, etc. It’s all part of setting apart.
- 4) Mostly refers to the process by which become holy – distinct from the world in our character and behavior, and increasingly dedicated to God.
- D) Connect verse 11, Holy Father, to verse 17, sanctify them, we see that sanctification is to become partakers of God’s holiness.
- E) See Notes: Sanctification: New Hampshire Baptist Confession
  - 1) Why quote that? “Partakers of God’s holiness” – we have a real history in the world and a continuity of faith back to the apostles – it’s important to note that we are not pioneers, truth is truth and does not change. And BF&M 2000 does not address it.
  - 2) So it’s the process of being made partakers of that nature of God that makes him utterly distinct from his creation. The holiness of God is his otherliness, his distinctiveness from the common of creation. And as we partake in sanctification, we partake in rising up from the commonness from which we were saved to join in his character and his purposes.
- F) This is the command of God for us: **LOGOS/SPLIT 1 Peter 1:14-16**, <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.””
- G) This is the will of God for us: **LOGOS/SPLIT 1 Thess 4:3**, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”
  - 1) Remember what we said about praying in the will of God, answered prayers, and joy.
  - 2) (See also Philippians 1:6) He who began will complete
- H) This is our destiny - **LOGOS/SPLIT Romans 8:29**, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” So we are conformed to Jesus

- 1) In His character never sinned.
  - 2) In his purposes – it was his food to do the will of God.
  - 3) See also 1 Cor. 15:49; Col. 3:10; 1 John 3:2
  - 4) We are to be presented before God Holy and blameless, **Eph. 1:4**, “He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.” Col. 1:22; 1 Thess 2:10, 3:13;
- I) So Jesus prays for us to be sanctified, but he also gives us the process by which we are sanctified. “in the truth.”

### III) Truth

- A) Sanctify them in the truth,
- B) In contrast to lies
  - 1) Lies were used to tempt into the fall. Genesis 3:1. By the serpent.
  - 2) The father of lies is the prince of this world. John 8:44.
  - 3) He is called the prince of this world because he is charge – elsewhere called the god of this world not because he is a god – but because of his influence and the fact that the world systems, if unknowingly, obeys him. Eph. 2:1-3. following our own desires right into his plans for the world
  - 4) Truth is necessary therefore in order to be set apart. To neutralize the lies. To lift us out of them.
    - (a) The lies that there is no God, our behavior ultimately doesn’t matter,
    - (b) The lies that we can be like God, we determine what is right, we command our own destiny, we can be right with God by any other way, we can make our own salvation,
    - (c) Even
- C) In conformance to reality
  - 1) It is ultimate reality
  - 2) A perfect description of reality – in a person
  - 3) Complex to know – must have a relationship, for the nature and purposes of the universe are not reduced to a concise set of statements.

- D) Jesus himself, John 14:6. And in that way, he is the ultimate reality.
  - 1) Rev. 22:13, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Also Rev. 1:8, 17.
  - 2) Col. 1:16-17, “all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Jesus Christ is the purpose of all things.
  - 3) Therefore any concept of truth must have him at the center, because all things in the universe serve the purposes of the glory of God in Jesus Christ.
- E) So it is in the revelation of reality in the person of Jesus Christ that sets us apart unto God. And this is done primarily through the Word of God.

### IV) Word

- A) Sanctify them in the truth; your *word* is truth.
- B) Word, but also idea, message, or concept, or body of knowledge,
- C) Jesus himself.
  - 1) **LOGOS John 1:1-2**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.”
  - 2) **John 1:14**, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Ultimate idea, ultimate message, perfect revelation of God. Hebrews 1:1-4;
- D) Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
- E) An account **LOGOS Luke 24:27**, “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”
  - 1) **Luke 24:32**, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

- 2) **verse 33**, “They rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together.” and were mutually edified with them by the experience. They turned back – they were sanctified by the experience. Put on the right path, set apart to God’s plans – not to wander away, but to re-commit. **MAIN**
- F) It is the revelation of Jesus Christ, the universe’s preeminent reality, through the word of God, that sanctifies us – from the beginning to the end.
- G) Beginning of our sanctification
- 1) John’s gospel
    - (a) 1:14, the Word became flesh...full of grace and truth
    - (b) 17:8, I have given them the words...and have come to know in truth...
  - 2) Paul
    - (a) **SPLIT/LOGOS Ephesians 1:13**, “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”
      - (i) Here – word of truth equated with gospel of your salvation,
      - (ii) at this word, they believed and were sealed
      - (iii) other references to the phrase
    - (b) Colossians 1:5 “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,” here again, it is the gospel
    - (c) 2 Timothy 2:15, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
    - (d) James 1:18, “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” Here again, it is the message through which we are saved.
- H) End of our sanctification

- 1) **LOGOS Ephesians 5:25-27**, “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”
  - 2) **SPLIT/LOGOS 1 John 3:2-3**, “<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”
  - 3) You see, it is the revelation of Christ that sanctifies us.
- V) Conclusion
- A) It is the word of God that reveals to us the ultimate reality that is Jesus Christ, and it is this revelation that sanctifies.
  - B) “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”
  - C) Jesus prayed for it, and so should we.
  - D) **SPLIT / SLIDE Big Idea:** We should pray that the revelation of the reality of Jesus Christ that is found in His Word will make us more Christlike and more dedicated to God and His purposes.
- VI) Application
- A) **LOGOS/SPLIT John 17:17**, Look at verse 19: Jesus consecrates himself. Same word. Why different translation? Because he is not sanctified in the same way as we are – he always was holy – what he refers to is in that he is going to be a sacrifice for sins – the very beginning of our sanctification, salvation, it is all made necessary in that he went to the cross to die.
  - B) And he did not die so that sinners could go to heaven as sinners. He died so that sinners could go to heaven as saints. His sacrifice paying the price for our sins – past, present, future; His righteousness put upon us for entry into heaven, and his Holy Spirit put within us for our current sanctification, and our ultimate glorification – when all trace of sin is removed forever with him.

- C) There is no version of this story in which we can be saved and remain stationary – sanctification is the will of God. There is no version of this story in which we proceed in sanctification without cooperation with God, struggle, effort, and that begins with prayer. Enlist God for help in what he wants to accomplish in you.
- D) Pray for sanctification.
- E) Specifically we pray for our affections to turn to fruitful things – dedication to the spiritual disciplines for example.
  - 1) A desire for sanctification.
  - 2) A desire for his Word and his revelation.
  - 3) A desire for prayer.
  - 4) A desire for worship.
  - 5) A desire for fellowship.
- F) We pray for a suppression of sinful desires.
- G) We pray for specific opportunities to learn His Word to open up, and to have the faith to embrace them.
- H) We pray for opportunities to serve thereby exercising the Word of truth in ourselves and ministering it to others.
- I) We pray for resolve and strength, perseverance, patience, so we can strive together with God for our sanctification. He does not just drop a sanctification bomb on us in response to our prayers, rather situations present themselves, and we wrestle through them drawing closer to God who is our help and our strength. We are often cleansed with fire.
- J) Why pray for it if it is our destiny?
  - 1) Because in so doing we are part of the process.
  - 2) We cannot believe that we will receive if we have not asked, or have not taken every possible precaution to ensure that we are not praying amiss.
  - 3) Because it is an expression of submission to His will which is a form of worship. And as we say the words, the idea is reinforced in us – it is a confession, which is always encouraged in things of God – to confess positively concerning Jesus and His will and our faith in Him; and to confess of course sin.
- K) Pray for the first time a prayer of salvation. Repentance, forgiveness, faith/trust in Christ, ask him to being the work in you that he will ultimately bring to completion.
- L) Pray and he will answer, and you will be encouraged.

## VII) Notes

### A) Cross-references:

- 1) Sermon on the will of God 2019 – your sanctification, 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- 2) BEC is exceedingly helpful in this
- 3) Word of God – All through this passage – eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son, the Son perfectly reveals the Father, the Son is called the Word, and the Truth, the Son gave the Father's Word, it was received and believed, and this Word further sanctifies. Jesus revealed that all the scripture was about him – Luke 24, and that he came to fulfill the law – Matthew 5. You think that in them you have eternal life, but it is they that speak of me. And this comes by the Holy Spirit who is also truth – 1 John 5:6.
- 4) Shall I argue that sanctification is the continuing revelation of Jesus Christ? That this journey is all about Him – the more we see him, the more we become like him – 1 John 3:2?
- 5) Sanctification is the key to everything! Transforming the mind, submitting the will, orienting the heart.

B) Is part of the issue of sanctification – this being set apart – to look at our connections? We are in the world, but not of the world. That is because we have been born from above. We are heavenly citizens. That means our sustenance comes from above, not the world. That means our affections are set on the things above – our heavenly home, Jesus Christ, and not John

- 1) It has been said that our affections are revealed by where we spend our time, talent, and treasure.
- 2) Likely, it has also been said that our affections can be revealed by that which gives us energy.
- 3) Sanctification is this – not a change of location, but a change of connection
  - (a) Joy – no longer from the world, but from God.
  - (b) Desires – no longer from the world, but from God.

(c) Direction – no longer...

(d) Behavior –

(e) Values –

(f) Perspective –

### C) It's about pleasing God,

- 1) You have a new birth, and it should be natural that your lifestyle should reflect it. Born again and connected to the Lord in relationship - that should leave a mark.
- 2) This is it – this is how it's done. We get set apart unto God for his purposes, yet we remain in the world to share the gospel.
- 3) But we pray for it, so it must be done in the power of God. This is why we must pray for it, to implore God for his empowerment for the work.

### D) Pray for Sanctification

- 1) The Primary Tool for Sanctification – the Word
  - (a) Look at all the Word does – brings us joy, love, etc.
- 2) The Primary opposition for Sanctification – the World
  - (a) Look at what the world does –

## VIII) For the believer

- A) Glory is the purpose
- B) Sanctification yields glory
- C) Truth yields sanctification
- D) Word is Truth
- E) Jesus is both word and truth

## IX) Sanctification

- A) Means to be set apart (for holy service to God)
- B) God is essentially saying, come out from them and be distinct. It is the outflow of your identity.
  - 1) 17:16, they are not of the world, - our identity, our home is not of this world,, BUT
  - 2) 17:17, sanctify them in the truth – there is a further distinction being made throughout our lifetime, through the Word of God.

C) v19 – Jesus gave himself for our sanctification – that it would be possible for us to be set apart. He consecrated himself – set himself apart as the sacrifice, and this should drive us.

X) WORD and TRUTH together:

XI) The Truth

XII) The appeal – Pontius Pilate, “What is truth?” He asks this with Truth Himself standing before him. The truth is, we all must choose between the reality that God has for us, or the delusion the world has for us. For Pilate, it was a choice between real justice, real truth, and the lie of public approval and the thin veil of peace to remain in the land. To honor the only true God, his Creator, or to satisfy the blood lusts of evil men and keep the status quo. He had this offered to him, and he chose the delusion over the truth, the lie of the peace of this world over the truth of satisfaction in Christ.

XIII) The world lies about

A) sexuality – the truth is in Jesus Christ, in holiness and devotion to God, sexuality is a gift to be enjoyed in the proper context – then it is ultimately enjoyable and satisfying. The lie is that anything goes – you are free to indulge your sexual lusts however you choose – but the lie is that these fleshly lusts are never truly satisfied, it will always take more, better.

B) justice – the truth is in Jesus Christ – the God will take vengeance, that every single sin ever committed against another will be paid for at the cross of Christ – or for eternity in hell by the sinner. Either way, every sin receives and eternal consequence from the perfect judge – who knows even the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The lie is that there must be revenge, retribution, but it will never satisfy. That in revenge the oppressed turns into oppressor, and has only then judgment upon himself to look forward to.

C) wealth – the truth is in Jesus Christ – He is our treasure, he is our inheritance, and in him are riches that no created thing can provide, wealth beyond imagine in life and truth. The lie is that just a little more will satisfy, that sufficient wealth for all will erase all ills of the world, that a lack of money is what is

wrong with people, and providing it will be lasting satisfaction and peace.

D) status – the truth is that to be IN CHRIST is the single greatest status one can obtain – the most fulfilling and most rewarded, the most glorious and the most influential to have the ear of the Father, the love of his son and power of the spirit. the lie is that accumulating titles, accolades of men and fans, influence, inside knowledge, and earthly political power, fame and influence will satisfy and put one in a place to do ultimate good, but the truth is that it leads one into deeper temptation, and rewards with slavery to the whims of society.

XIV) As Christians we have the only word of truth

A) It should lead us to evangelism – not convincing people to our way of thinking, but presenting the Word of Truth that God may open the hearts and minds of people.

B) It should lead us to holiness, because our message is compromised as much as our lives do not conform to our message – who is our Savior.

C) But that should not lead to boasting – as it was not revealed to us by flesh and blood, but by the Father who is in heaven (Matt 16:17).

XV) But we don't just pray vaguely for this:

XVI) Morpheus, from the Matrix, “Unfortunately one cannot be told what the Matrix is, you have to see it for yourself. This is your last chance, after this there is no turning back. You take the blue pill, the story ends. You wake up in your bed and believe what you want to believe. You take the red pill, you stay in wonderland, and I show you how deep the rabbit hole goes. Remember, all I'm offering is the truth, nothing more.”

## WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

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July 5, 2020

### Announcements:

Help is still needed in completing the remodeling of the Sunday School rooms and the nursery. Please contact Pastor Eric for details if you would like to help. Additionally, the time has come to furnish these rooms. Tables and chairs for the new rooms will likely cost over \$2000. We have received \$250 already and have an additional \$1000 pledged! Additional donations above and beyond regular tithing would help tremendously. Let's have these rooms completed before we resume Sunday School classes.

### Praying for Sanctification

John 17:13-19

**Big Idea:** We should pray that the revelation of the reality of Jesus Christ that is found in His Word will make us more Christlike and more dedicated to God and His purposes.

### SANCTIFY:

- **To be set apart unto God.** John 17:11, 17.
- **The be made partakers of God's holiness.** (See New Hampshire Baptist Confession quote later in the notes.)
- **Sanctification is the command of God for us.** 1 Peter 1:14-16
- **Sanctification is the will of God for us.** 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Philippians 4:6.
- **Sanctification is our destiny.** Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Colossians 3:10; 1 John 3:2.

### TRUTH:

- **In contrast to lies.** John 8:44; Genesis 3:1; Ephesians 2:1-3.
- **In conformance to reality.**
- **Jesus himself.** John 14:6; Revelation 22:13, 1:8, 1:17; Colossians 1:16-17

### WORD:

- **Jesus himself.** John 1:1-2, 1:14; Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27-33.
- **He is the beginning of our sanctification.** John 1:14, 17:8; Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:18.
- **He is the end of our sanctification.** Eph 5:25-27; 1 Jn 3:2-3.

### New Hampshire Baptist Confession (1833) states:

“We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made *partakers of his holiness*; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer”<sup>1</sup> (Emphasis added)

### Invitation:

- Pray for Sanctification and all that it entails. Think about the kind of desires, character attributes, and opportunities you want to have, and ask for them!
- Pray specifically for the Word of God to reveal to you the reality of Jesus Christ for the purpose of conforming you to His image.
- Pray for sanctification of one another.
- Pray for sanctification of your congregation together to the image purposes of God.

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<sup>1</sup> Elwell, Walter A., and Barry J. Beitzel. *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* 1988 : n. pag. Print.

# “Praying for Unity”

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## I) Introduction:

- A) **Slide 1, Welcome, MAIN,**
- B) John 17 – Prayer of Jesus for disciples – including us. Use as a model for answered prayer – praying in his name, that is according to his will.
- C) So far – praying for glory, praying for keeps, praying for sanctification, today praying for unity.
- D) **Big Idea:** We should pray for all believers to be in perfect unity with one another and the with the Father and the Son.
- E) **LOGOS READ John 17:20-26 (:00)**
- F) Outline
  - 1) The Basis of Unity – Jesus Christ and His Glory
  - 2) The Nature of Unity – the Trinity
  - 3) The Results of Unity – Faith, Knowledge, Love,

## II) The Basis of Our Unity

- A) **SPLIT/JOHN 17:22**, “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.”
  - 1) He has given his glory to us.
  - 2) Shown himself. Given us eternal life – relationship with the Father and the Son, so we have this glory within us.
- B) **SPLIT/John 17:24**, His desire is for us to reveal more glory eternally.
- C) **MAIN** The basis of our unity then is not in temporal things, not within us. Not our idea, not up to our abilities, resolve, or plans, it is based in Jesus Christ and His glory – and he cannot fail.

## D) We look toward him.

- 1) **SPLIT/Slide Basis:** The basis of our unity is eternal – Jesus Christ, and internal – by the Spirit of God IN us, not external.
- 2) Not to circumstances of our birth – race, color, abilities, personalities, stature, income, or worldly status,
- 3) But to the circumstances of our new birth in Jesus Christ:
  - (a) Drawn to the Son by the Father
  - (b) convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit – humbled to the point of repenting, and trusting in Christ for our salvation
  - (c) Saved by His grace, regenerated by His Spirit

## E) This makes level ground – true equality

- 1) All convicted sinners – James 2:10, “For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.” There are no levels of sin. “good” person the same as a murderer.
- 2) Saved by grace – so no opportunity for boasting – it’s not by works, though works necessarily flow out of it.
- 3) Received gifts – all part of the body – and equally as valuable, Paul makes clear 1 Cor. 10-14, regardless of gifts and position in the body – equal footing in the fellowship of our lord – a seat at the table all the same. Order, yes, rank, no!

## F) This basis makes all that is necessary for unity available.

- 1) **LOGOS: Eph. 4:1-3:**
  - (a) Walk in a manner worthy of the calling. 1-3, 3-6,
  - (b) v3 – eager to maintain the unity, how?
  - (c) with all humility – sinner saved by grace, nothing but humble,
  - (d) Gentleness – brothers saved in Christ – image-bearer, chosen and washed – so treat appropriately.
  - (e) Patience – having the Spirit indwell, we become aware of our shortcomings and acutely aware of how patient God has been with us – so we are with one another.



- (f) Bearing with one another in love – carrying a load, empowered by love – why? because He first loved us, so we ought to love. Commanded to love.
- 2) **MAIN**, Relationships require patience, love, humility, gentleness, forgiveness – and we can forgive, because we have been forgiven. For a true believer – we know our debt to God, and it was forgiven, and nothing a human being can do to us is worthy to compare to that debt, so we forgive – unless we put ourselves above God.
- 3) All that is required for unity – Jesus has provided. So our basis for unity is Him and His glory.

### III) The Nature of Our Unity

- A) **SPLIT/JOHN 17:21** “That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us”
- B) and 17:22, end “even as we are one.”
- C) **MAIN** Trinity – three persons, but one God.
  - 1) Only way to make sense of Jesus’ conversations with and about the Father
  - 2) Only way to make sense of Jesus’ talk about the Holy Spirit – another comforter of the same kind, a him – a person
  - 3) I and the Father are one, the Spirit takes what is mine and makes it yours, Command to make disciples baptizing them in the name singular – one God – in three person, Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
- D) The Son’s unity with the Father
  - 1) Distinct persons
  - 2) Unified purpose
  - 3) Unified character
  - 4) Unified divine nature
  - 5) Unified action – salvation, love.
  - 6) Unified eternally – there was never a time when the Son was not, they are eternally coexistent persons of one God.
  - 7) Try to sort out who does what and you will find conflict – some overlap between persons, because all are involved in our salvation, in divine purposes. Why modalism is a heresy.

- E) **SPLIT / SLIDE Nature** Our unity with one another
  - 1) Distinct persons
  - 2) Unified as people in character, love, purpose, and destiny. Born again human servants of the living God.
    - (a) Character – moral standards and action – Christ
    - (b) Love – From Father to Son to one another, equipped to love neighbor and God.
    - (c) Purpose – Food to do the will, he revealed the Father, so now we reveal him – and our unity is a part of that. Unified in purpose, we will have less disunity over trivial matters,
    - (d) Destiny - – verse 24 – we will be with him to see his glory – together.
  - 3) We have a similar kind of unity with the Father and the Son – purpose, character, actions. But not nature – we will never be divine, always human, but born-again spiritual beings, sharing the Holy Spirit of God, in that way partaking of his nature, but not taking upon ourselves his nature or his God-hood.
- F) **LOGOS Eph. 4:4-6**, the nature of our unity is in the working of the trinity – the salvation plan of God.
- G) **MAIN** So again the lesson – unity is not sameness. Different preferences, gifts, language, background, experiences, interaction with the divine, but unity of purpose, morals/character, experiences, actions in love.

### IV) The Results of Our Unity

- A) **SPLIT/Logos John 17:21-25**
- B) Glory – any time we draw attention to God in a positive way, it glorifies him. We see that our unity and love is used of God to draw and secure more disciples for His glory.
- C) Faith – Verse 21 – “so that the world may believe.” We call them into the same faith, and it is our unity that will do it.
  - 1) We came to believe that the Father sent the Son, 17:8;
- D) Knowledge - more certainty, relational – Verse 23 – “so that the world may know that you sent me.”
  - 1) Just as we know – verse 25.

- E) Love - verse 25, “so that they may know that” Jesus loved the disciples as the Father loved the Son.
- F) **John 13:34-35**, Our love – growing out of the context of our unity – the Love the Father had, he gave to the Son, the Son in turn gave to us, and now we will give to each other – and that will be a sign to the world that we are his.
- G) **SPLIT / SLIDE Results** Our unity turns into glory as we show the love of Christ on earth – and it turns into more disciples as they believe.
- H) Disciples: This is the hard work of making disciples – not about programs, inviting to church, as much as it is about becoming unified with one another in Christ – growing in our sanctification together and striving with God to be all we can be to maintain unity – patient, gentle, loving, humble, kind.
- I) **MAIN**
- V) **The World is profoundly confused**
  - A) They sense the difficulties and divisions that we have, the injustices that exist, they sense the law of God that this is not right,
  - B) Many are stirred up – some well-meaning, others with selfish agendas, some driven by hate
  - C) They offer us Critical Race Theory
    - 1) No forgiveness
    - 2) Therefore, no true unity,
    - 3) Measures are worldly – our material wealth, ease of living, power and influence,
    - 4) They divide all people into groups of oppressors and the oppressed with no promise of reconciliation, just reparations, turning it upside down – and as worldly efforts go, it will have worldly results – continued division and unrest.
  - D) The gospel is better
    - 1) Every tribe, tongue, nation and language,
    - 2) true unity in character, purpose, and love,
    - 3) eternal unity in the presence of the glory of God – ultimate equality forever.
- 4) Join in this endeavor.
- E) Repent and believe.
- F) Grow in your faith – be sanctified in truth, find unity there.
- G) Be involved in loving action – growing the church, reaching out with the truth.
- H) Let the world see the love of God – it is what it needs.

- I) They sense the drive to be unified
- J) “It has well been said that truth without love is brutality, but love without truth is hypocrisy.” – the heart grows by giving out love. Phil. 1:9-10 with knowledge and all discernment.
- K) It is into the same faith that we call others – verse 21 – our unity will call them to believe,

#### VI) Especially in these times

- A) We offer the only true solution. There can only be true unity when there is a unity of
  - 1) Morality
  - 2) Purpose
  - 3) Methods
  - 4) Love
- B) CRT says the world owes you a debt. The gospel says your debt was paid, so you must forgive the debts of others. Moreover, you are now a debtor to love God and love your neighbor as yourself.
- C) CRT says your identity is determined by your birth color and your circumstances. The gospel shows us all as slaves to sin, but in Christ freed from sin, and born into a new identity of children of God.
- D) CRT offers no plan for reconciliation, but the gospel offers true unity around a perfect God.
- E) Right in this place masters and their slaves worshiped together. Because they were equal in the social order? No. Because they were equal under the cross, and in the eyes of God. God doesn’t call us out of the world, but wants us to be distinct.

F) jfkda;

#### VII) To do

- A) Read Augustine
- B) Read BEC
- C) Read cross-references

#### VIII) Unity requires commonality

- A) It is not sameness.

#### B) As the Godhead is in unity

- 1) Of purpose
- 2) Of character

IX) Augustine, “We are one, not in order that we may believe, but because we have believed.” Gal. 3:28.

A) We must have commonality. And as believers, we have the same

- 1) Position prior to salvation.
- 2) Position in Christ.
- 3) Lord
- 4) Spirit
- 5) Confession
- 6) Truth – the mind grows by taking in truth
  - (a)
- 7) Humility – required for relationships
- 8) forgiven – so able to (required to ) forgive
- 9) Destiny

B) Examples of unity

- 1) across genders
- 2) socio-economic levels
- 3) ethnicities
- 4) ages
- 5) time

#### X) Cross-references

- A) Do not be called Rabbi or Father, for you are all brothers. Apply this – equal under Christ, but ordered for the sake of the gospel. Gifts to the Church (Eph. 4) to be respected and obeyed c/r.
- B) 1 Cor. 10, 12. Parts of the body, varying gifts, equal importance.
- C) Misc. neither Jew nor Greek, etc. Point out as Voddie Baucham did – that the Jew/Greek distinction was made by God, so it was a real distinction, and was torn down at the cross – the dividing wall torn down that the Gentiles may draw near.

#### XI) Summary of this prayer

- A) Glory of God
- B) Security of His people
- C) Sanctity of His people
- D) Unity of His people
- E) May we be able to say with Jesus John 17:4, "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

## WHITES RUN BAPTIST CHURCH

4690 KY HWY 36 E  
Carrollton, KY 41008

### PASTOR:

Eric Newcomer  
502-686-0973

### MUSIC:

Wanda Raisor  
Clayton Dermon

**July 12, 2020**

### Announcements:

The time has come to furnish our new Sunday School Rooms! Quality tables and chairs for the comfort and safety of our members can be costly. We also want to include some basic audio and video hardware. We have already received \$250 towards these things, and we have an additional \$1000 pledged! Additional donations above and beyond regular tithing would help tremendously. Let's have these rooms completed before we resume Sunday School classes.

### **Praying for Unity**

John 17:20-26

**Big Idea:** We should pray for all believers to be in perfect unity with one another and with the Father and with the Son.

### **The Basis of Our Unity: Jesus Christ and His Glory.**

- **Eternal Unity.** John 17:24.
- **Internal Unity.** James 2:10; Ephesians 4:1-3; John 3:1-18.
- **But Not Merely External Unity.**

### **The Nature of Our Unity: The Trinity.**

- **Unified in Character.** Ephesians 4:4-6.
- **Unified in Love.** John 17:26; Matthew 22:34-40; John 13:31:34-35.
- **Unified in Purpose.** 2 Corinthians 5:15; Matthew 28:18-20.
- **Unified in Destiny.** John 17:24; Romans 8:29.
- This Unity is not sameness or mere uniformity, but a deliberate bond between diverse believers toward a singular God and His purposes.

### **The Results of Our Unity:**

- **Glory.** John 17:1-5, 22.
- **Faith.** John 17:8, 21.
- **Knowledge.** John 17:23, 25.
- **Love.** John 17:25, 13:34-35.
- **Disciples.**

### **Invitation:**

- Am I truly unified with my church and other believers, or do we just get along? Do I know the difference?
- Do I have prejudices against others that require repentance?
- Am I truly unified with my church in the work of the ministry?
- Can I purposefully reach out to fellow believers to foster unity? Who? When? Why not today?
- Pray for God to foster the inward attitudes and outward actions that produce unity in His people so that He may be glorified.



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Clayton Dermon

**July 19, 2020**

### Announcements:

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### **Beginnings**

Genesis 1:1-3

**Big Idea:** We should pray for all believers to be in perfect unity with one another and with the Father and with the Son.

### **Introduction:**

"Beginnings" is a series of sermons from the Pentateuch that seeks to provide a foundation for all faith and study by emphasizing its teachings concerning the covenants, and the one who eventually fulfills those covenants, Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:17-18; John 1:1-3, 1:14; Luke 24:27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 1:1-4.

### **In the Beginning (בְּרֵאשִׁית)**

God is the First Cause. The Prime Mover. Who created God? The question itself is irrelevant to God, because being created and having a beginning are time-bound concepts, and God is above time because He is its creator. He has no beginning and no end. He is self-existent.

### **God (אֱלֹהִים)**

God - the Almighty, Elohim. The Lord God (Genesis 2:4-22), Yahweh Elohim, the covenant-making God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; He is the maker of heaven and earth.

### **Created (בְּרָא)**

All things were made by Him and for His purposes, so it is in Him that we must find our direction, our purpose, and our destiny.

### **Applications**

- Worship your Creator through His creation: Ps. 19:1, 50:6; Romans 1:19-20.
- Seek your creator: Romans 11:36-12:2; Isaiah 55:6; Psalm 32:6; Amos 5:4.
- Be saved: Matthew 4:16; John 8:12, 12:46; Acts 26:18, 2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Acts 2:21.
- Meditate on this: "In the beginning, God created."

### **For Next Time:**

- Read Genesis chapters 1-2, and Genesis 5:1, 9:6.
- Read James 3:9.
- Read Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10.

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### **Mini Hebrew lesson:**

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים

Elohim  
God

Bara

He Created

Bereshith

In the beginning

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Clayton Dermon

**July 26, 2020**

#### **Announcements:**

- The time has come to furnish our new Sunday School Rooms! We have already received \$250 towards these things, and we have an additional \$1000 pledged! Additional donations above and beyond regular tithing would help tremendously. Let's have these rooms completed before we resume Sunday School classes.
- Haven of Hope Baby Bottles: Please fill a baby bottle with your spare change, some cash, or even a check to help this local ministry guide young women in crisis pregnancies into life-honoring decisions.

### **Image and Likeness**

Genesis 1:26-27

**Big Idea:** God made mankind as his image in creation giving mankind unique privileges, intrinsic value, and covenant obligations. See also Genesis 5:1, 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9; Matthew 22:17-22.

#### **Introduction:**

"Beginnings" is a series of sermons from the Pentateuch that seeks to provide a foundation for all faith and study by emphasizing its teachings concerning the covenants, and the one who eventually fulfills those covenants, Jesus Christ. Matthew 5:17-18; John 1:1-3, 1:14; Luke 24:27; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Hebrews 1:1-4.

### **Unique Privileges**

- Dominion: Rule, Reign, Authority and Responsibility. Genesis 1:26-28, 2:5-8.
- Blessings: Genesis 1:28.
- Soul/Spirit: Ecclesiastes 12:7; Genesis 6:3.
- Intellect: Cognition, self-awareness, language.
- Morality: Romans 5:12-21.

### **Intrinsic Value**

- Value for all humanity: Genesis 9:6; Matthew 5:21-22.
- Equality of Gender: Genesis 1:26-27; Ephesians 5:21-33
- Equality of 'Race': The Bible recognizes only one "race" of men. Acts 17:26; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 2-3; Revelation 5:9, 7:9.

### **Covenant Obligations**

- More on this next time. See Romans 5:12-19.
- Take back the Reign. Romans 5:14, 17.
- Repent and Believe. Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10; Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6.
- Share the Gospel. Matthew 28:18-20.

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Clayton Dermon

**August 23, 2020**

## Sin and Consequences

### The Sin

- Satan rebelled against God. (Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19.)
- Satan tempted. (Genesis 3:1-5; James 1:13-15; 1 Corinthians 11:3; John 8:44; Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:16.)
- Adam and Eve Ate. (Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:15-17; John 3:18; Romans 9:32; Hebrews 3:12-19.)

### The Results of Sin

- Realization. Genesis 3:7.
- Shame. Genesis 3:7-9.
- Disconnection. From God, Genesis 3:8-9. From one another, Genesis 3:7, 12, 16b.
- Blame. Genesis 3:12-13.
- Blaming: Adam —>> Eve —>> Serpent
- Curses: Serpent —>> Eve —>> Adam

### God's Responses to Sin

- War: Genesis 3:15; Job 1-2, 38-42; John 8:44, 10:10; Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 6:10-20.
- Pain in Childbearing. Genesis 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:8-15.

- Disorder in the Family. Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:21-6:4.
- Drudgery in Work. Genesis 3:17-19
- Death. Genesis 3:19, 2:17; Romans 5:12-21.
- The Gospel. Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:14, 11; Revelation 20.
- The Gospel Sign. Genesis 3:21; Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:20, 8:1-3.
- God provided. Genesis 22:8; Romans 3:20.
- A sacrifice was made. Hebrews 9:22, 10:4; Ephesians 1:7.
- Banishment. Genesis 3:22-24; Revelation 22:2.

### Applications

- Think about how the fall of mankind and the curses of Genesis 3 perfectly explain the condition of our world today.
- Salvation is an act of God. Do not look around at the world for solutions.
- Share the gospel. Be able to explain this to others by connecting the brokenness of the world with our own brokenness. Then show them God's solution — Jesus Christ.
- Understand how the faithful in the Old Testament were saved. (See Hebrews 11; Galatians 3:1-14; for help.)

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Clayton Dermon

**August 30, 2020**

**Announcements:** Sunday School will resume with one class next Sunday at 10:00 AM. We will wear masks for moving around, but may remove them when seated in Sunday School. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall, and spacing out around tables by family groups. We will announce more classes as they become available.

## The Two Religions

### Keys for Understanding Scripture

- See how Abel is a typology of Christ. He offered up a good sacrifice, was killed by an unbeliever in anger and jealousy, and yet is spoken of as still speaking. (Hebrews 11:4)
- Note the recurring contrasts and conflicts between the believing offspring of the woman and the unbelieving offspring of the serpent.
- Understand that the Bible classifies all belief systems into two: Truth and error. Truth is embraced by the believing, and has Jesus Christ as its central focus. Error is embraced by everyone else whether claiming another religion or even no religion.
  - Truth has as its evidence obedience and blessings.
  - Error has as its evidence sin and curse.
- Notice in the scripture, God continually introduces new revelation that teaches more about the nature of God and Jesus Christ who is to come. Along the way, he makes covenants and promises all to be fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

### The Offerings

- Of Abel: Fat portions of the firstborn of his flock. Genesis 4:4, 3:15, 3:21; Exodus 13:2, 34:19; Luke 2:7; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 11:4.
- Of Cain: An offering of the fruit of the ground. Genesis 4:3, 3:17; Leviticus 2:1-11.

### The Difference

**FAITH!** Hebrews 11:4, by faith he offered a more acceptable sacrifice.

1. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 3-4; Psalm 78:32.
2. Righteousness comes by faith. Hebrews 11:7; Romans 1:17, 3:22, 4:1-24.
3. True faith displays itself in works. Hebrews 11; James 2:14-26.

### Results

- For Abel: Commendation, Righteousness, Persecution. Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:4, 8.
- For Cain: Displeasure, Invitation, Warning, Sin, Curse. James 1:14-15; Genesis 4:5-24;

### Applications

- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and so be saved.
- Be encouraged in your Christian walk.

“Christian brothers and sisters, be encouraged even in tumultuous times. We will always have problems, but we know the source of all problems is sin. We know the solution to all problems is Jesus Christ. We know the problems end at his return to judge the living and the dead. So be encouraged even in tough times, knowing that it is the difficulties of this present age themselves that God is using to bring people to repentance, to glorify himself to his people, and to work in them all that he desires for their benefit and for His glory. In this great knowledge, you are freed from despair to love God, to love your neighbor, and to love one another in His body, the church.”

-- Pastor Eric Newcomer

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