

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 26, 2017

This Week's Focus: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus prayed for us – that we would be united in the eternal, mutual love between Father, Son, and Spirit as we live on mission for God's glory.

This Week's Text: John 17:20-26

“Christian love is anchored in the Godhead, anchored in eternity, anchored in Christ, and anchored in the cross.” **D.A. Carson**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What has been Jesus' prayer up to this point? Who is Jesus praying for in this concluding paragraph of John 17?
- Discuss the following statement: “Christian love and unity is a supernatural work of God that originates from the very nature of God and flows to us when we are in union with God.” What is the Trinity, and what does the Trinity teach us about love and unity? Reference 1 John 4:8; John 5:19; 14:17-19, 23-27.
- Contrast the world's definition(s) of love and unity with Scripture's teaching of genuine love and unity.
- Discuss how the Word of God (verses 17, 20) and the work of God (verses 21, 23,) are essential foundations to Christian love and unity.
- Encourage one another with this truth: God the Father loves us to the same degree that he loves Jesus Christ. Reference verse 26.
- What is the glory that Jesus shares with us as we live on mission with him? Reference verse 22. How is it different from the infinite glory that God alone possesses?
- Using the illustration of a closed hand and an open hand, discuss the difference between unity and uniformity between believers (and churches).
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?