



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“We Are Family”

Ps James Lowe – August 3, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Is there someone in your life that is not a family member, but to you they feel like family? What makes that relationship so special?
- Who are the people that you like to spend the most time with? Why is that the case?
- What attracted you to join Bethel (or this life group)?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

John 17:11,20-24 & Ephesians 2:11-22

John 17 records Jesus' prayer before he was crucified. He was about to die and he is praying not for the salvation of individuals, but for those who are going to be saved by his sacrifice to remain unified. In his prayer, he gives us the basis and purpose of unity.

1. The church unity is modeled by the unity of the Father and Jesus. To start his prayer, Jesus refers to the Father with a familiar term: Father. He could have said God Almighty, Yahweh, or Creator, but he refers to the Father as Father because that's the primary relationship that we have with God through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus. Jesus is telling the Father that he wants the disciples to be one just as he and the Father are one.
2. Being a part of Jesus' spiritual family translates into being a part of the spiritual family within his church. Unity is meant to transcend; transcend from generation to generation; from ethnicity to ethnicity. Our vertical reconciliation should transcend to horizontal reconciliation. When you only get Christ and you neglect your human relationships that are divinely inspired you are missing out on God's plan for you. We were not created to live life alone; therefore, we cannot make it on our own. Surely two are better than one, and to be disconnected from spiritual family is to be disconnected from Christ's mission.
3. There is a unity and a distinction between the Father and the Son. The fact that the Father and the Son are one doesn't undermine the fact that they are two different Persons. That is part of the mystery of the Trinity. God has called His church to be one, even though we are not all alike. God often times will place us with people that are different from us so that we can grow.
4. The mission that God has assigned to us can only be accomplished in unity. Our mission can only be accomplished if we remain in unity. The world won't believe us unless we are in unity. The world will know we are his disciples by the love we show to one another. The more the enemy can keep you from the people with whom you are suppose to walk, the more he will

keep you from achieving your destiny, and the more he can delay the accomplishment of God's purpose for his creation.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What can you do to join in with the unity of the church?
- What do you believe to be God's purpose for you being part of this church? How are you living up to that purpose?
- Have you been reconciled with God? Has your reconciliation with God led to reconciliation between you and God's children?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for the unity of the church.
- Pray God will lead you in your next step to increase your commitment to this spiritual family.
- Pray to forgive anybody who may have hurt you in the church. Ask for forgiveness if you know you have offended any of God's children.