



Why pray for unified direction?

March 26, 2023

Why are there so many denominations and churches?

John 17:20-26 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

1. Unity is _____ by God himself!

a. United in _____

- Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

b. United in _____

- Hebrews 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days

he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

- *John 8:27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.*

c. United in _____

- *John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*
- *1 Timothy 2:3-6 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.*

2. Unity is _____ by the Word alone!

a. The Word _____ unity.

- *John 17:17 "Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth."*
- *1 Corinthians 2:4-5 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*
- *1 Corinthians 3:21-23 So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.*
- *1 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,...*

b. The Word _____ unity.

- *Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*

3. Unity is _____ to build the kingdom of God!

Jesus prays for “oneness” among believers for these reasons:

1. That people _____ the glory of the Father.
2. That the world knows the Father _____ Jesus to be their Savior.
3. That people know they are _____ by the Father.
4. That people believe in Jesus and _____ eternity with Jesus.
5. That people find true _____ with the true God.

Why pray for unified direction?

God is _____.

Souls are _____.

Don't miss the devotional emails this week to build on today's message!

(Go to crosspointgtx.com and click on “Daily Devotions” – bottom left.)

SERMON REFLECTIONS: Apply to My Life

The thought the Spirit is leading me to focus on is:

The change the Spirit is leading me to work on is:

The action the Spirit is prompting me to take is:

My prayers today are:

Someone I would like to bless with today's message:

DIGGING DEEPER: Apply to My Life

Scripture: *(Use one from the message this week)*

Observation: *(What stood out about this verse? What do you notice?)*

Application: *(How can you apply this verse in your life today? How can you live in light of this truth?)*

Prayer: *(Turn your thoughts into prayer. Ask the Lord to show you how to believe and live this verse. Pray for people and situations in your life.)*