

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE**

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**The Real Lord's Prayer:
Jesus Prayer For Us –
"The Unity Centered Life"**

John 17:20-26

I get a kick out of amusing church signs. Here is one that I came across recently that made me chuckle.

**"We Are A FACEBOOK Church –
We Seek His FACE and Open His BOOK."**

The best advertisement we can do for this church is a witness of oneness to the world because when we're unified we display the personality, purposes and power of God.

There are several Scripture passages that come to my mind that lift up the spiritual standard of a cohesive community of faith.

Ps. 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!" Phil.2:2: "fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."

And I would simply say AMEN and AMEN!

Now notice first that . . .

I. JESUS PRAYS FOR YOU AND ME Vs.20-23

I see four assumptions about unity in this passage.

1. The parameters of oneness include all believers (21a). His prayer is much deeper than *"us four and no more."* *Let me add three cautions at this point:*

- ◆ Abandon extreme separatism
- ◆ Avoid ecumenical sloppiness
- ◆ Adhere to unity but not uniformity

2. The pattern for oneness is linked to the unity within the Trinity (11, 21c, 22).

3. The purpose of oneness for evangelism (21b)

4. The practice of oneness puts God's reputation on display to the world (22-23).

Specifically, according to *John 17:23*, the world will know two things:

- ⇒ God's Mission:
- ⇒ God's Message:

Secondly what can we do to

II. BECOMING THE ANSWER

"What can I personally do to become the answer to Jesus' prayer and foster unity within Bible Baptist Church?"

1. Be a grower
2. Be a peacemaker
3. Be a forgiver
4. Be a lover
5. Be a server and pray