



CALLED OUT

Week 2 | Called Out Together

| KEY THOUGHTS

- **When the end of Jesus's life drew near, he chose to pray and submit to his Father's will.**
- He prayed for:
 - himself, **that he might glorify God;**
 - his disciples, pointing them **back to the Father, for his glory;**
 - the Church that would grow and continue throughout history, **that they would be in godly unity.**
- He prayed that we would be one, as he and the Father are one; that means **everybody laying down their rights, as Jesus did, and bearing witness to Christ.**
- **Unity requires humility from each of us,** sacrificing our personal preferences for the glory of Christ.
- The goal should not be unity itself; **unity must not be around the lowest common belief, but on the truth of the gospel.**
- **Unity does not mean uniformity;** within the Church is a great diversity of people and gifts, all working together to strengthen the Body.
- An old adage concerning the Church: **In the essentials, unity; in the non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.** We hold the gospel to be non-negotiable; but in everything, we want to respond to others with the same love and grace that we want to receive from others—and *do* receive from Christ.
- **Unity does not blur distinctions** between gifts, abilities, or individuals; diversity is celebrated as being from God.
- **Not doing what we're created to do stifles the gospel and weakens the Body of Christ.** We do the work together, helping one another, encouraging one another, speaking well of one another even when they aren't around.
- **When we're not united, the credibility of the gospel is at stake;** it's been said that division in the Church breeds atheism in the world.

| SCRIPTURE

²⁰ I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 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, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them. **John 17:20-26 (ESV)**

| PRACTICAL

- One way the Holy Spirit fosters unity within the Church is through God's word. Read Romans 12 every day this week to learn about how God describes church unity, asking the Spirit to show you how these truths apply to you.
- Pray for restoration of any strained or broken relationship(s) in your life, whether in your church, your family, or elsewhere. You don't have the power to change others, but you do have the power to choose to pray.
- The way to achieve unity within the Church is to make less of myself and more of Jesus. What I want doesn't matter; it's all about the glory of God.
- If I'm outside the faith—that is, if I've never put my faith in Christ—I will be outside the kind of unity he spoke of. Jesus must be the Lord and Leader of my life.

| REFLECT

- If I have time before I die, will I choose to spend that time in prayer? What will I pray for?
- What do I boast in? Do I boast in Jesus and what he has done rather than in myself?
- When I find fault with others in the church or with the way things are done, what part of that scenario doesn't glorify God? Is it the person or thing that I criticize, or is it me, the critic?
- When going through difficulty, how would my outlook change if I took some time every day to look forward to Christ's eternal glory?

MYLIGHTHOUSECOMMUNITY.COM