**FOCUS** in 2020

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**THE POWER OF ONE –** *A study of John 17*

***The Glory of ONE – John 17:1-5***



One is **more** when it is made of **many**.

**One Body** – 30 trillion cells

**One Book** – 90 thousand words (of course, the Bible has almost 785K)

**One Church** – 2.4 billion people

**One Nation** – 50 states - 331 million people

**Glory Days** - a time in the past regarded as being better than the present.

**It is easy to long for glory days!** The truth is that all of our **glory fades.**

*for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but* ***the word of the Lord remains forever.****” And this word is the* ***good news*** *that was preached to you.* 1 Peter 1:24–25

**What can you do? What should you do?**

Our theme this year is **FOCUS**. It is never more evident than in this season that what we focus on makes all the difference in how we live.

Jesus prayed that those who believed in Him **would be ONE**! That **the many would be ONE,** even as **God is ONE.** Jesus gave us something to clearly focus on. **Oneness.**

**ONE is a powerful number** when the many are committed to **one**ness.

**Why ONE?** What is it about being **ONE** that is so important that Jesus would pray to the Father that we would be **ONE**! Why? Because …

Oneness **magnifies** God’s glory.

**God is ONE.** Jesus would have grown up memorizing the Shema, which is the Hebrew word for hear or listen. The first verse in the Shema,

Sh'ma Yis-ra-eil, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu, A-do-nai E-chad.

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

A **microscope**

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,* ***what is man*** *that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?* Psalm 8:3–4

A **telescope**

*The heavens* ***declare the glory of God****, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* Psalm 19:1

Jesus became a **telescope** that brought God’s glory into **focus**.

Jesus shows us the **source** of glory – **God** Himself!

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come;* ***glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you****,* John 17:1

*And now, Father,* ***glorify me*** *in your own presence with* ***the glory*** *that I had with you before the world existed.* John 17:5

Jesus shows us His **plan** for glory – Our **Salvation**!

*since you have* ***given him authority*** *over all flesh, to* ***give eternal life*** *to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life,* ***that they know you****, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.* John 17:2-3

Jesus showed us how to **live** for God’s glory – Works of **Love**!

***I glorified you on earth****, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.* John 17:4

What does it mean to give God glory?

*Going public with his infinite worth*. *To put the beauty of His holiness on display.* John Piper

*The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.*Westminster Confession

The glory of **one** that brings power to **one** is the **Holy** **Spirit**.

*The glory that you have given me* ***I have given to them****,* ***that they may be one*** *even as we are one …* John 17:22

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For* ***this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit****.* 2 Corinthians 3:18

Do you want to be a **microscope** or a **telescope**?

**How can I glorify God in my oneness?**

Become **one** with God through **salvation**.

*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.* Psalm 51:4

Produce **spiritual** fruit in **keeping** with **oneness**.

*By this* ***my Father is glorified****, that you* ***bear much fruit*** *and so prove to be my disciples.* John 15:8

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may* ***see your good works*** *and* ***give glory to your Father*** *who is in heaven.* Matthew 5:16

***Every good work should be a revelation of the glory of God.*** *What makes the good deed an act of love is not the raw act, but the passion and the sacrifice to make God himself known as glorious. Not to aim to show God is not to love, because God is what we need most deeply. And to have all else without him is to perish in the end. The Bible says that you can give away all that you have and deliver your body to be burned and have not love. If you don’t point people to God for everlasting joy, you don’t love.* ***You waste your life.*** John Piper

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10:31

Pray that God will be **glorified** in the oneness of your life.

*and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and* ***you shall glorify me****.* Psalm 50:15

*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* John 14:13