**FOCUS** in 2020

September 6, 2020

Dr. Jerry Edmonson, *Lead Pastor*

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

***The Vision of ONE – John 17:20-26***



**Earlier this year, we studied Revelation.** A vision of living in a world that is hostile to your faith. It was a vision that reminded us of a future that is ours in the presence of the fullness of God. There will be no pain, tears, injustice, inequality, division, hostility, anger, riots, disease or death. **It will be heaven.** We will worship as one ... even though we are many.

**A vision** is what we believe about **God’s preferred future**. It is not a dream; it is a future that we put our hope in.

**Hope** is the belief in a **future** certain reality.

The power of a vision is that **it causes us to live differently today** because of what we believe will happen in the future as a result.

We eat differently when we have a vision of health in the future.

We work differently when we have a vision of making a greater impact or progressing further in our career.

We exercise differently when we have a vision of crossing the finish line or winning the championship.

If you have no **vision**, you have no **future**.

*Where there is no prophetic* ***vision*** *the people* ***cast off restraint****, but blessed is he who keeps the law.* Proverbs 29:18

The King James version says it this way …

Where *there is* no vision, **the people perish** …

Proverbs 29:18a

If you have no **future**, you return to your **past**.

Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die!

*What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus?* ***If the dead are not raised****, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”* 1 Corinthians 15:32

**Christian atheism is a real problem** … we say we believe in Jesus, have given Him our lives, are trusting in Him for our salvation … and then we live like He does not exist. **We do what we think is right in our own eyes.**

But what if we could live today with God’s vision of tomorrow? Living with a vision requires us to envision.

To envision something is to see a future event, a life or way of being.

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!* Psalm 133:1

*If you don't know where you are going, any road can take you there.* Lewis Carroll

Can you **envision** a future where we live as one?

We are **one** … we just do not **live** like it.

*For* ***he himself is our peace****, who has* ***made us both one*** *and has* ***broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*** *by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself* ***one new man in place of the two****, so making peace, and might* ***reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross,*** *thereby* ***killing the hostility****.* Ephesians 2:14–16

**It is a future focused not on differences, but on our shared salvation and purpose to bring glory to God in our lives.** A future where the followers of Jesus live, love, serve each other and the world sharing the gospel of Jesus is the answer to sin and all that is broken in the world.

Oneness is not **sameness** nor is unity **uniformity**.

It means we are one in our purpose. God created each of us to be unique ... and yet we are one.

**Envisioning a Vision of ONE!**

Envision **people** finding Jesus through your **life**.

*I do not ask for these only, but also* ***for those who will believe*** *in me* ***through their word****, 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*. John 17:20–21

*O righteous Father, even though* ***the world does not know you****, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 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 17:25-26

*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,* ***not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance****.* 2 Peter 3:9

Envision the **glory** of God on display in your **life** and in our church.

Can you see how beautiful God is as we live, love, serve, care for each other valuing our differences, our uniqueness, our gifts and abilities. Can the world see?

*The glory that you have given me* ***I have given to them****, that* ***they may be one*** *even as we are one, 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.* John 17:22-23

Envision the **day** when you **see** Jesus in all His **glory**.

What will it be like when you die, when you pass from this life to the next?

*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.* John 17:24

In the parable of the talents, we hear the words to the faithful servant:

*His master said to him, ‘****Well done, good and faithful servant****. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’* Matthew 25:21

We are never told to become one; we already are one and expected to act and live like it.

We are **one** … now you must **act** like it.

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,* ***urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling*** *to which you have been called, with all* ***humility*** *and* ***gentleness****, with* ***patience****,* ***bearing with one another in love****, eager to* ***maintain the unity of the Spirit*** *in the bond of peace. There is* ***one body*** *and* ***one Spirit****—just as you were called to the* ***one hope*** *that belongs to your call—* ***one Lord****,* ***one faith****,* ***one baptism****,* ***one God*** *and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* Ephesians 4:1–6

*For by the grace given to me I say to* ***everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think****, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.* ***For as in one body we have many members****, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and* ***individually members one of another****.* Romans 12:3–5