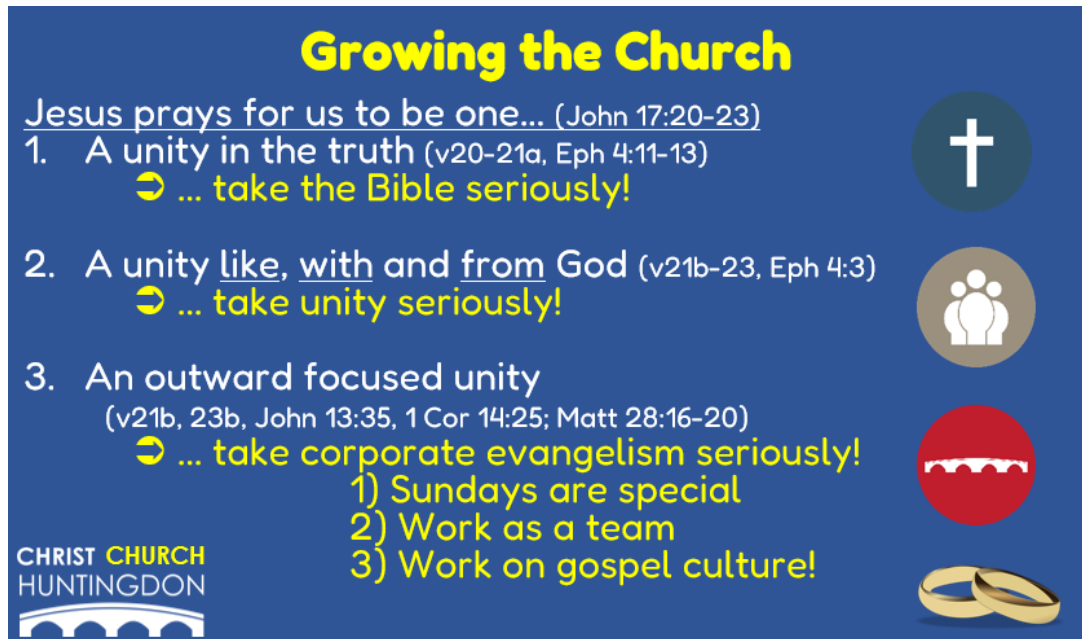


Dig Deeper into Sermon #2 on the Church for individuals and groups...



Growing the Church

Jesus prays for us to be one... (John 17:20-23)

1. A unity in the truth (v20-21a, Eph 4:11-13)
⇒ ... take the Bible seriously!
2. A unity like, with and from God (v21b-23, Eph 4:3)
⇒ ... take unity seriously!
3. An outward focused unity
(v21b, 23b, John 13:35, 1 Cor 14:25; Matt 28:16-20)
⇒ ... take corporate evangelism seriously!
 - 1) Sundays are special
 - 2) Work as a team
 - 3) Work on gospel culture!

CHRIST CHURCH HUNTINGDON

Feel free to recap any parts of the John 17:20-23 that you didn't understand, especially looking back over the logic of the passage to understand what Jesus is praying for, and once you have done that you might like to focus in on the last 3 parts of the sermon for further application...

1. Sundays are special...

- a. What have you discovered about the place of our unity (John 17:23) and love (John 13:35) in our witness? Is this something new to you? Does it mean a dialling down on "proclamation"?
- b. What implications might that have for your actions and attitudes on a Sunday?
- c. Is there anything keeping you from inviting a friend to church on Sunday?

2. Work as a team...

- a. How could you bring other Christians into your relationships with unbelievers?
- b. Can you think of a way in which you could do that as a lifegroup?
- c. What will you do practically to make that reality rather than just "another good idea"?

3. Work on gospel culture...

- a. Discuss this quote by Francis Schaeffer (founder of the L'Abri community) "If we do not show beauty in the way that we treat each other, then in the eyes of the world, and in the eyes of our own children we are destroying the truth we proclaim".
- b. What little changes might there be if we are going to prize the quality of our relationships in church more and yet do that in an evangelistically powerful way?

Close by spending some time praying for our unity in the gospel to be visible to unbelievers.



Resources mentioned in talk 2...

- Tim Keller, "Forgive- why I should and how can I?" book from 10ofthose [here](#).
- Ray Ortlund, "The Gospel- how the church portrays the beauty of Christ" book from 10ofthose [here](#).
- Ray Ortlund & Sam Allberry "You're not Crazy" podcast for pastors, especially series 1 at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/youre-not-crazy/>.