

## All of them ONE

The church, the body of Christ; fellowship, gifts, ministries, witness

Today: Purpose; based on gospel reading

In Ch 13-16: we find Jesus sitting at a dining table with his friends

teaching: “love one another”, and to encouraging, promise of the H.S.

Ch 17: change: J. focussing His eyes on heaven; “Father, the hour has come”, a decisive hour..... a bridge between the past and the future.

When Jesus looks backwards “Father, completed; I commit all my work into your hands.

And as he looks towards the future, not see the cross ,but a multitude of people: worshipping, reflecting God`s dazzling light, God`s glory. Jesus sees the church as it will be in the future, he sees the fruit of the work he did on earth. And something in his heart stirs:

”Father, I have one last request: I want If three can be one, then myriads of thousands can be one.“

Jesus prayed with great confidence, “I want”: God`s plan.; knew what that Oneness with the Father and the Spirit looks like -- he had lived in it before

For us, more difficult: more than one sermon; I still don`t understand it; one of those God-things.....

But pointers in john 17: word “GIVE “ appears: **it is easy to give** when there are such **joy** in all that giving, sharing and mutual encouragement.

And that is the One-ness Jesus and the Father want us to have. That is the kind of church Jesus was thinking about when he said to Simon Peter: “on you I will build my church”.

Jesus is in the building-business right now; challenging time, breaking down, drawing closer to Himself; picture of a bicycle wheel .

God uses joys that bring us closer. Sometimes difficulties, pressure that show us that we can`t do it on our own. a nurse

Jesus is building his church right now, What is our part?

BE

SEE

ENJOY

"it`s your breath in our lungs, (so we pour out our praise)"....; a Bible truth

Jn 17 again, first purpose of the church is to BE in his presence , to look at Him, to enjoy being with Him

It`s a bit like a stained glass window: lots and lots of small pieces of glass, each one different in shape and colour but each one facing the centre: when the Son shine into this, it makes a spectacular picture: nobody will look at it and say what is that thin blue piece of glass doing there -- people will see the whole and they will stand , marvel and praise artist.

For Lent: "the less WE do, the more God can do"