

NOV 4TH: HOPE BEYOND THE BALLOT
THE UNITY PRAYER OF JESUS – JOHN 17:20-23

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – OCTOBER 18, 2020

This weekend, Pastor Carlos walked us through Jesus's prayer for unity found in the Gospel of John as anchor for our hearts and minds amidst this latest election cycle. **READ JOHN 17:20-23.**

DISCUSS

1. Pastor Carlos began his sermon acknowledging the frustration and fatigue he has been feeling around the way the body of Christ is treating one another in the midst of this latest political cycle. Does this resonate with your own experience? What's grieved you personally?
2. What has been anchoring your heart and mind during this latest election cycle?
3. How often does it come to your mind that Jesus has and continues to pray for his church? What was stirred in your heart hearing about the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Spirit and the outpouring of that triune love upon the church?
4. Pastor Carlos directly challenged us to consider the way we are speaking about brothers and sisters in Christ on political matters. As you heard this, did the Spirit bring to mind a way you've recently mistreated or maligned a fellow believer—whether in thought or deed? What does repentance look like in this particular instance?
5. When we read Scripture and look throughout church history, we see that God's people have always been a "hot mess," and yet we have been purchased with the precious blood of Christ. What habits do you need to lean into in this season to help you see the preciousness of your relationship with other believers—even the ones with whom you disagree politically?
6. How do we need to grow as a community group to embody the kind of unified love for which Jesus has prayed?

PRAY

Have someone slowly re-read this week's passage. Meditate on the profound nature of the love our Triune God has for us. Use Jesus's words here to shape your own prayers. Confess any hardness of heart that is keeping you from seeing your brothers and sisters in Christ the way that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit do.