

Why so important?

Vs. 23 "Then the world will know..."

> Then (hina) is a purpose clause

Division in the church breeds atheism in the world.

Unity is mission critical!

Insight: Unity isn't uniformity or unanimity; Jesus brings people that are very different from each other into Unity.

How can we maintain unity?

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35

The key to unity is to love one another just as Jesus loves us.

The Enduring Example: John 13:1-17

What would I sacrifice unity over? Am I willing to wash their feet?

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,"

John 17:20

"I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Why is Jesus continuing to pray for unity?

Because it doesn't come naturally

Because God's help and grace will be needed

Because it needs to be maintained

Because of the power and blessing that will come from it

Further discussion:

- 1. How is unity mission critical?
- 2. How important has unity been to you?
- 3. Whose feet would it be difficult for you to wash?
- 4. What is the Holy Spirit convicting you about?