

Thursday, April 10

Read John 17:11-25. Pastor Jack mentioned with obvious disdain the word “Hegemony.” Hegemony refers to the situation where only one way of thinking, one way of seeing, is allowed and accepted. While relating to and being with “like-minded people” seems like a great idea, it can lead to stagnation of an organization or and group of people. Thinking of this concept, you can almost hear minds snap shut! What do you think? How do we grow in our faith if we do not welcome and encounter differing opinions and beliefs? How do we learn to be tolerant and avoid exclusive ideologies? How do we avoid hateful attitudes to grow within us? Meditate on these questions and write your reflections here. How have your Prayers of Examen gone this week?

Friday, April 11

The opposite of hegemony is diversity and unity in healing and supportive relationships. Diversity means combining our collective gifts and God given graces to form a fuller representation of Jesus Christ in the world. It is important to embrace our differences as they can definitely teach us of the great and wide wonder of our world. We can be unified in purpose as we combine our very different abilities; and our purpose is glorifying God! Think of the unity to which Christ calls us. Begin to think of ways your gifts and graces can combine with others to make a difference in the world as we together share the love of Jesus the Christ. Meditate on these concepts of diversity and unity and how you can consider them complementary to each other. Write your thoughts here. Also, write some thoughts on how your Prayer of Examen went this week.

Message Notes – April 6, 2025

Praying With Jesus – *The High Priest Prayer**

- I. Jesus then shared in Chapter 17 of John’s gospel the _____ recorded prayer of Jesus in our scripture, called the High Priestly Prayer. This prayer has three parts.
 - A. First, Jesus prayed for _____ asking God to glorify him so that Jesus in turn could glorify God. (Verses 1-5)
 - B. Jesus then gives thanks for the _____ gathered around him at The Last Supper. (Verses 6-19)
 - C. Third, Jesus prays for _____, the church; that us friends. (Verses 20-26)
- II. Jesus’ prayer for those disciples gathered around him represent Jesus wishes for us _____ disciples as well.
 - A. That we would be _____, holy and consecrated for God’s _____.
 - B. That we would find _____ in this work.
 - C. Jesus, in praying for us, was particularly focused on our _____.
 1. Of course, oneness has never been a quality the church has had much of an opportunity to _____.
 2. If we are honest with ourselves, churches and colleagues in ministry do not look at each other as _____ in presenting Christ to the world but rather we look at each other as _____.
- III. Perhaps our greatest problem has been distinguishing Jesus’ _____ of oneness from our own _____ of hegemony.
 - A. Hegemony is a fun word to say but an absolutely _____ and _____ concept.

*John 17:11-15

- B. Hegemony refers to the situation where only ____ way of thinking, ____ way of seeing, is allowed and _____.
 - C. Jesus did not come to establish the hegemony of the church. He came to enable us to become a community _____ by _____.
- IV. Human beings have always had difficulty balancing the concepts of individuality and _____.
- A. Christ's ____ was unification, not homogenization.
 1. One of the most powerful Jungian images is of the one _____ where we all finally unite.
 2. But the one tree without the many dissimilar branches is just a _____.
 - B. We are called to _____ but we are all unique and _____.
 1. We are _____ to combine our different gifts into a _____ presentation of Christ to the world.
 2. It's cool to know that Jesus prayed for ____, but we must embrace our _____ and _____ that he prayed for us to be and do in the world!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, April 7

The Prayer of Examen, attributed to St. Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, can be a daily prayer or focus on another period of time that a person cares to recall and examine in a five-step process. Pastor Jack shared this prayer form during worship yesterday and you are encouraged to enter a Prayer of Examen each day this week, Monday through Friday. The five steps are: 1. Celebrate and give thanks for God presence, 2. Pray for illumination and guidance from God as you reflect on God's presence throughout your day, 3. Examine the events and

encounters of your day as if you are reviewing a video with God at your side. Don't judge the events as good or bad but rather focus on God's presence throughout your day, 4. Sift through the joys and delights as well as the sorrows and struggles, asking for God's needed grace and 5. Finally, rest in God's amazing grace giving thanks for the blessings of the day and asking for forgiveness for anything that has separated you from God. Take time for this prayer practice each day beginning today, at least for 5 minutes. This is an excellent prayer form to partner with journaling, recording our reflections and thoughts while you pray. God bless you in this endeavor this week.

Tuesday, April 8

Read Chapter 17 of John's Gospel. Pay close attention to the various themes in this prayer. As mentioned during the message, this is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in our scriptures. Jesus prayed for himself to be glorified in order to glorify God, he prays for the disciples who were present with him in the Upper Room and then he prays for us – future believers. Most likely you are able to mention the themes discussed during the message, but what other themes can you discern from your reading of the entire chapter? Which themes resonant with your most? What themes do you believe are most important? Write your thoughts here. Remember your Prayer of Examen today!

Wednesday, April 9

Read Chapter 17 again today. Today we will focus on the theme of unity or oneness as it is expressed by some Bible commentators. How many times is unity mentioned in this chapter. How important do you consider unity to be to the church and society? What could be sacrificed or at least overlooked by focusing primarily on unity? Write your thoughts here.