

26_CiC week 5_Ed Stetzer





I. A 30,000-foot view:

3 Group

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I. A 30,000-foot view:

1. It is a normal thing for humans to gather in different groups.

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I. A 30,000-foot view:

1. It is a normal thing for humans to gather in different groups.
2. We see this through the many different denominations and church expressions today.

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I. A 30,000-foot view:

1. It is a normal thing for humans to gather in different groups.
2. We see this through the many different denominations and church expressions today.
3. We see this developing as the church spread across history.

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We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

N I C E N E C R E E D

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“The Church is the congregation of saints in which the Gospel is purely taught and the sacraments are rightly administered.”

A U G S B U R G (L U T H E R A N) C O N F E S S I O N

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I. A 30,000-foot view:

1. It is a normal thing for humans to gather in different groups.
2. We see this through the many different denominations and church expressions today.
3. We see this developing as the church spread across history.
4. Today we see a rich yet often confusing array of traditions.

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Roman Catholic Church
Eastern Orthodox Church
Lutheran Church
Reformed Churches
Baptist Churches
Methodist Church
Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches

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Jesuits
Moravian Church
China Inland Mission
Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU)
World Vision
The National Association of Evangelicals

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II. A Closer Look at Scripture

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...One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or
"I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 1:12

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**1. Jesus' Prayer of Expectancy and Our Present Reality
(John 17:20-23)**

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1. Jesus' Prayer of Expectancy and Our Present Reality (John 17:20-23)

- a. Jesus prays for the "catholic" church: All Future Believers — including Us (verse 20).

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"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word."

JOHN 17:20

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After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

Salvation belongs to our God,
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!

REVELATION 7:9-10

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1. Jesus' Prayer of Expectancy and Our Present Reality (John 17:20-23)

- a. Jesus prays for the "catholic" church: All Future Believers — including Us (verse 20).
- b. Jesus prays for unity, not uniformity (verse 21).

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“May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you.
May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.”

J O H N 1 7 : 2 1

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“May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you.
May they also be in us, **so that the world may believe you sent me.**”

J O H N 1 7 : 2 1

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1. Jesus' Prayer of Expectancy and Our Present Reality (John 17:20-23)

- a. Jesus prays for the "catholic" church: All Future Believers — including Us (verse 20).
- b. Jesus prays for unity, not uniformity (verse 21).
- c. Four buckets of difference.

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Theological



Structural



Cultural/
Regional



Practice

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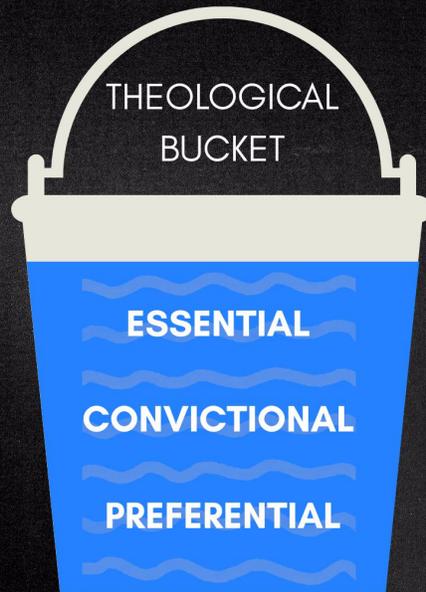


1. Jesus' Prayer of Expectancy and Our Present Reality (John 17:20-23)

- a. Jesus prays for the "catholic" church: All Future Believers — including Us (verse 20).
- b. Jesus prays for unity, not uniformity (verse 21).
- c. Four buckets of difference.
- d. Three categories I use to help.

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2. The Call to Humility for Unity (Philippians 2:1-4)

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2. The Call to Humility for Unity (Philippians 2:1-4)

a. The Basis of Unity (Philippians 2:1-2)

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If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

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2. The Call to Humility for Unity (Philippians 2:1-4)

- a. The Basis of Unity (Philippians 2:1-2)
- b. The Barriers to Unity (Philippians 2:3-4)

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Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

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III. Practical Steps We Can Take

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III. Practical Steps We Can Take

1. Remember what the church is.

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III. Practical Steps We Can Take

1. Remember what the church is.
2. Respect believers in other traditions as family.

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John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he wasn’t following us.”

“Don’t stop him,” said Jesus, “because there is no one who will perform a miracle in my name who can soon afterward speak evil of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. And whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in my name, because you belong to Christ —truly I tell you, he will never lose his reward.

MARK 9 : 3 9 - 4 1

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III. Practical Steps We Can Take

1. Remember what the church is.
2. Respect believers in other traditions as family.
3. Recall daily our Lord's prayer for oneness.

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“May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you.
May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.”

JOHN 17:21

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III. Practical Steps We Can Take

1. Remember what the church is.
2. Respect believers in other traditions as family.
3. Recall daily our Lord's prayer for oneness.
4. Renew your attitude, actions, and affection toward other believers.

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