(Reproduced from OMPH Church Bulletin 2nd June 2019 edition) John 17:20-26

"Integrity & Unity"



One of the last things for which Jesus prayed while He was still among us was unity. It was His hope that all mankind men and women of all races, creeds and beliefs – recognize their shortcomings, put aside their prejudices, and come together to rejoice in the Gift that God has given to us all: redemption, freedom from ignorance and illusion, and the grace to love one another as He loved us.

Unity doesn't come easily. It's relatively easy to look at the world situation to see the state of chaos that we are in. Wars still rage, whether they be on the battlefields, or in the differences of religious beliefs, or in the hearts of neighbors who can't get along. The real test of our commitment to Jesus' prayer for Unity is our willingness, not only to admit our own brokenness, but also to work to help each other become whole again, in His love.

The truth is that God answered Jesus' prayer. We are one as the Father and the Son are one. What is untrue is the division we practice. And if we do nothing about this division or continue to foster it, we run the risk of reducing the Gospel *of* Jesus to a religion *about* Jesus.



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