

OutlineEaster7c16

“Can We Possibly Gain Unity?” based on John 17:20-26

People will endure the hardships of an athletic event more readily than church worship

- Going to a baseball game- expense, travel, hard seats, weather – but to attend worship is another story
- May it be because we don't understand the crucial nature of church

Jesus helps us see the church as he envisioned it

- Jesus prays for our unity, 'that they all may be one'. Doesn't mean all to do everything the same way, but a 'oneness in spirit'. Need to be well-balanced and healthy, we achieve this through being with other people in relationships.
- Jesus prays for unity with God, 'that they be one in us'. Differs from a social club, are to be in touch with God. Example of 'heliotropic' – bending toward sun. We are to be theotropic – bending toward God. Another example of girl lashed to hull or mast of boat survived, while 6 strong men who just held on, perished.
- Jesus prays for our unity with him in glory, 'that the ones You gave me will be with me where I go'. Jesus secures our life for eternity, forever in heaven. Enables us to live in hope now.

The church is a whole new ballgame. It's a community of believers, committed to each other and to God, and bound for glory. May all of us experience the peace and hope Jesus has prayed for!