

The Altar of Witness  
Joshua 22:10-34

Review:

1. We cannot compromise on the essential truths of the gospel because there is only one way of salvation – we must pursue the purity of the Church.
2. Because there is one people of God, we must also pursue the unity of the Church. Christians' love for one another is a critical component of effective evangelism.
3. Pursuing the peace and unity of the Church is never easy – it cost Jesus His life, so we should be prepared to give up some control or convenience or comfort to demonstrate our love for one another.

Go Further – Read John 17:1-21

1. In verse 2, what does Jesus say the Father has given Him? What does He promise to give His people?
2. What do you think Heaven will be like? How does verse 3 change your conception of Heaven?
3. What does Jesus say He has done in verse 4? What work did He do, and how did that work glorify God?
4. Who does Jesus say gave Him His disciples in verse 6? What does Jesus say they have done?
5. According to verses 7 and 8, what is the ultimate origin of Jesus' words? What does this truth tell you about the Scriptures?
6. According to verse 11, what does Jesus ask the Father to do for His disciples? What effect does Jesus want this to have on His disciples?
7. Who is the "son of perdition" Jesus mentions in verse 12? Why did this man end up being lost?
8. In verse 13, why does Jesus say He has spoken to the world? How has the Word of God made you joyful?
9. Why does verse 14 tell us that the world will hate the Church? In what ways do you think obedience to the Word of God currently increases this hatred?
10. What does Jesus specifically not ask the Father to do in verse 15? Given this, why do you think He has left the Church in the world?
11. To be sanctified means to be set apart from sin and set apart for God. How does verse 17 say that the Church will be sanctified? What sorts of things does the Word of God tell us that help us to be sanctified?
12. For which two groups of people does Jesus pray in verse 20? Do you fit into one of these categories? How does it feel to know that Jesus is specifically praying for you?
13. For what sorts of relationships does Jesus pray in verse 21? Why does Jesus want His church to be unified? What is the connection between our unity and effective evangelism?

Apply:

1. How do you think God is calling you to promote the purity of the Church? What changes would you like to see in yourself and your congregation that would help you draw closer to Christ?
2. What concrete steps can you take to promote the unity of the Church? What can you do to reach across racial or denominational lines to accomplish this?
3. How can you be in the world and yet not of the world?