

## John 17:17-23 Discussion Questions

1. "Sanctify" is a holiness word. It means to make holy.
  - a. What is holiness?
  - b. In light of the meaning of holiness, what does it mean for a person to be "sanctified" or "to be made holy?"
  - c. In John 17:19 Jesus says that he "consecrates" himself, which is the same Greek word as "sanctify." In this context, Jesus is referring to his being set apart for the mission that Father gave him to reveal the Father (17:4, 6-8). How does Jesus praying that the Father would "sanctify" his disciples like he was "consecrated" continue to shape how we understand sanctification?
2. How does God sanctify his people? (v. 17)
  - a. How does God's word sanctify us?
  - b. How does God's Spirit sanctify us?
  - c. How does God use circumstances to sanctify us?
  - d. What is our role in the sanctification process?
3. In what area(s) of your life is God currently sanctifying you?
  - a. How is he using circumstances and people to achieve this?
  - b. How are you cooperating with him in this?
  - c. How are you resisting him?
  - d. How can the people in your group help you walk faithfully in this situation?
4. Jesus also prays for the unification of the church (vv. 21-23).
  - a. Why does Jesus want the church to be unified? What does he say will happen if they are?

b. What does it look like for a church to be unified?

c. What is the source of our disunity?

d. How can we fight to maintain the unity of the Spirit?

5. Finally, we see that Jesus prays for the sanctification and unification of his disciples so that Jesus' mission might be successfully carried on by his disciples (vv. 18, 21, 23).

a. Spend some time praying through these as a group. Here are some suggested prayer prompts.

1) That we would embrace sanctification together:

- That we would trust in God's goodness and obey his word
- That we would rely on his strength by seeking and walking in the power of the Spirit
- That we would be support one another by being transparent enough to share what is going on and humble enough to accept both help and correction from one another.

2) That we would fight for unity:

- That God would unify his church
- That we would lay down our preferences and seek God's agenda
- That we would seek one another's good
- That we would forgive others like God has forgiven us
- That we would accept others as they are
- That we would expose the sin that divides us and be willing to deal with it in truth and love

3) That we would be faithful to be Christ's witnesses and carry on his mission:

- That our unity would be evident so that people believe
- That we would not be ashamed of the Gospel but that God would give us boldness
- That we would love our unsaved friends and family enough to share
- That God would give us wisdom to know how to best share
- That God would give us opportunity
- That God would give us favor so that they would listen