



Purpose 2

Purpose of the Elders Discipleship Group: To Train and Equip Discipleship Group leaders to lead more effectively.

Key Theme: Purpose.

Key Truth: Perfected in unity/oneness with the Groom and His body.

Becoming the bride of Christ or being invited to the wedding ceremony of the bride and Groom is not an automatic thing. This is why we have the parable of the virgins and the parable of the talents, to show us how we are to become this spotless and blameless bride and then to live as His bride in complete obedience to the Groom, doing the Will of the Father.

Our inability to be this, due to a lack of pursuing love and not having a faith that sees, will see us coming short of this inheritance that is in Christ. We will be with the Father and Son for eternity but not receive the full reward of knowing Him that comes through Faith.

With this in mind it is essential we come to realise what is at stake and why Jesus instructs us to be one with Him, the Father, and one another. Jesus Himself prays, that we will be perfected in unity, oneness of Spirit, by being kept in His name.

*John 17:11 I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, **that they may be one even as We are.***

*John 17:21 **that they may all be one;** even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.*

*John 17:22 The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one, just as We are one;***

*John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity,** so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

We are perfected in unity or oneness with God and one another by being kept in His name. Being kept in His name is not just saying Jesus' name or saying amen after someone says "in Jesus name", but actually being transformed by His name. In His name is all the power to change us and perfect us in oneness, unity.

Unfortunately, today many of God's people attempt to create oneness by everyone striving to achieve a common goal. We come together around a task or some function to achieve a determined outcome. In essence there is nothing wrong with doing these things but this is not how unity of the Spirit is perfected. Being perfected in unity is each individual member of His body surrendering and submitting their entire lives to being kept in His name.

Anything less than this is called conformity to man's plans and doesn't produce the true spiritual oneness/unity, that Jesus prayed we would come into, hence this creates a lack of true spiritual unity in His body, the very thing His bride will be and be known for. The bride will be all those who allow the Spirit to truly perfect them through His name, His Word.

Jesus has made the way for this perfect oneness to occur, so the only thing that prevents this from happening is us. It's what we believe or what we think or what we want to do, that is in opposition to Christ, that prevents this true building work of the Spirit occurring within us. This perfecting work of the Spirit by God's word truly produces a people who become one with God and one another and it is this church that a lost world look at and know Jesus was sent for them.

Ask yourself today two questions.



“Are you as an individual member of Jesus’ body truly being perfected into spiritual oneness with God and one another?” and the second question is; “Are you meeting lost people who know Jesus was sent for them through seeing a church that is one?”

Questions:

1. Discuss as a group the 2 questions above
2. What conclusions are you coming to as a group in relation to these 2 questions?
3. What responsibility do we all have in relation to becoming this church that is being perfected in oneness with God and one another through the keeping of His name?
4. What does being PERFECTED into oneness mean? What does being KEPT in His name mean?
5. Describe the values, attributes and characteristics of this church that is being perfected in oneness with God and one another.

Action point: What is one thing you may need to put in place from going through this resource?