

## Supernatural Loving Community

The presence of God turned a handful of ragamuffins into a powerful movement. Acts 2

- Disciples - "...released an explosion of light and heat the world had never known." R. Stark
- The early church's supernatural loving relationships were an answer to Jesus' prayer.

Jesus was personally praying for each of us just prior to going to the cross. John 17:20

- "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for \_\_\_\_\_ who believes in Me..."
- Jesus, our Great High Priest, lifted us into the presence of our heavenly Father.

Jesus' heart-cry: *"that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You,"* 17:21

1. The Father and Son are united in purpose: The glory of God. John 7:18; 8:54; Matt. 5:16
2. The Father and Son are united in mission: Rescue the lost. Luke 19:10; Matt. 28:19-20
3. The Father and Son are united in principle: Declare and obey the truth. Luke 14:10
4. The Father and Son are united in purity: Absolute sin-free holiness. 1 Peter 1:15-16
5. The Father and Son are united in passion: Love and obedience. John 3:16; 13:34-35

Supernatural Loving Relationships get life from the Godhead: *"also may be in Us,"* John 17:21

- In our own strength we can't possibly be the answer to Jesus' prayer. John 15:4-5
- *"Abide in Me..."*: Regularly be nourished by Me - Obey Me - Personally talk with Me.

God's purpose of a Supernatural Loving Community goes way beyond our personal benefits.

- *"that the world will know that You sent Me...that You love them as much as You love Me."* 17:23
- Evangelism is a community venture. - Discord is a serious stumbling block to the lost.

### Further Study and Pondering:

1. How do you think you would have reacted to the dynamics of the early church?
2. Respond to the truth that Jesus prayed for you before going to the cross. John 17:20
3. Review characteristics (verses) of the unity between Jesus & His Father. (See above 1-5)  
Evaluate how the characteristics of their unity are showing up in your relationships?
4. Further study on the foundations of a Supernatural Loving Community: Matthew 3:11; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 12:4-13; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:1-6; Colossians 1:13-18
5. Read John 15:1-6. Evaluate the quality of your "abiding in Christ." Your obedience - Your disciplines of spiritual nourishment - Your personal talking with God.
6. How can you increase your positive influence on the Lebanon Free Church Family?
7. Prayer time: Ask God to grow us into an explosive Supernatural Loving Community.

**Be the answer to Jesus' explosive Prayer!**

John 17:1-26