

# The Anatomy of a Church (61)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 06/21/15)

## The Internal Systems-2

### The Result of True Unity

The Lord's first request may be examined under four headings:

- 1) the root of true unity,
- 2) the request for true unity,
- 3) the representation of true unity,
- 4) the result of true unity.

[John 17:21c-23b \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>21</sup>“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.

<sup>22</sup>The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

<sup>23</sup>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.”

The observable unity of the church authenticates *two important realities*.

**First**, it gives evidence to **the world** so that it **may believe that** the Father **sent** the Son. That familiar phrase summarizes the plan of redemption, in which God sent Jesus on a mission of salvation “**to seek and to save that which was lost**” ([Luke 19:10](#)).

[Luke 19:10 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

It is so used throughout John's gospel (e.g., [John 3:34](#); [John 4:34](#); [John 5:23-24](#), [30](#), [36-38](#); [John 6:29](#), [38-39](#), [44](#), [57](#); [John 7:16](#), [18](#), [28-29](#), [33](#); [John 8:16](#), [18](#), [26](#), [29](#), [42](#); [John 9:4](#); [John 10:36](#); [John 11:42](#); [John 12:44-45](#), [49](#); [John 13:20](#); [John 14:24](#); [John 15:21](#); [John 16:5](#); [John 17:3](#), [8](#), [18](#), [25](#); [John 20:21](#)).

[John 3:34 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>34</sup>“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.”

[John 4:34 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>34</sup>“Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

**John 5:23-24 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> “so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”

**John 5:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

**John 5:36-38 (NASB)**

<sup>36</sup> “But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

<sup>37</sup> And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time nor seen His form.

<sup>38</sup> You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.”

**John 6:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> “Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

**John 6:38-39 (NASB)**

<sup>38</sup> “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

<sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”

**John 6:44 (NASB)**

<sup>44</sup> “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

**John 6:57 (NASB)**

<sup>57</sup> “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.”

**John 7:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “So Jesus answered them and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”

**John 7:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”

**John 7:28-29 (NASB)**

<sup>28</sup> “Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.

<sup>29</sup> I know Him, because I am from Him, and He sent Me.”

**John 7:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup> “Therefore Jesus said, “For a little while longer I am with you, then I go to Him who sent Me.”

**John 8:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone *in it*, but I and the Father who sent Me.”

**John 8:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> “I am He who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me.”

**John 8:26 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> “I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”

**John 8:29 (NASB)**

<sup>29</sup> “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

**John 8:42 (NASB)**

<sup>42</sup> “Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.”

**John 9:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.”

**John 10:36 (NASB)**

<sup>36</sup> “do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?”

**John 11:42 (NASB)**

<sup>42</sup>“I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.”

**John 12:44-45 (NASB)**

<sup>44</sup>“And Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me.

<sup>45</sup> He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me.”

**John 12:49 (NASB)**

<sup>49</sup>“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.”

**John 13:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

**John 14:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.”

**John 15:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.”

**John 16:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'"

**John 17:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

**John 17:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>“for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

**John 17:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup>“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

**John 17:25 (NASB)**

<sup>25</sup>“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.”

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**John 20:21 (NASB)**

**<sup>21</sup>“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace *be* with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”**

Jesus prayed that the visible unity of His church would convince many in the world concerning His divine mission of redemption. The church’s unity is the foundation of its evangelism; it demonstrates that Christ is the Savior who transforms lives (cf. [John 13:35](#)).

**John 13:35 (NASB)**

**<sup>35</sup>“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

The church’s unity also authenticates the Father’s love for believers. When unbelievers see believers’ love for each other, it offers proof to them that the Father has **loved** those who have believed in His Son. The loving unity of the church made visible is used by God to produce a desire on the part of unbelievers to experience that same love. On the other hand, where there are carnal divisions, strife, backbiting, and quarreling in the church, it drives unbelievers away. Why would they want to be part of such a hypocritical group that is at cross-purposes with itself? The effectiveness of the church’s evangelism is devastated by dissension and disputes among its members.

It must be the goal of everyone who is part of the body of Christ through faith in Him to do their part in maintaining the full visibility of the unity that believers possess, as Paul wrote:

**Ephesians 4:1-3 (NASB)**

**<sup>1</sup>“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,  
<sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,  
<sup>3</sup>being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”**