

SERMON OUTLINE John 17:25-26

May the Love of God Be in You

THE FATHER'S THIRD NAME

THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW THE FATHER

JESUS KNOWS THE FATHER

JESUS' FOLLOWERS KNOW THE FATHER

They Know that Jesus Was Sent by the Father

They Know that the Father Loves Jesus

They Know that the Father Loves Them

They Know that Jesus is "In Them"

They Know these things Because Jesus Made and Continues to Make these things Known

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of these final two verses of Jesus' prayer is that in Jesus' life and ministry we find a perfect example of what it looks like to live fully in the light; to live fully consistently with the will and in the love of God. And in these closing sentences of Jesus' prayer, we can clearly see the essence of the light. (1) Knowing God for who He really is and what He is really like and (2) Conforming every aspect of our lives to that. In His prayer, Jesus acknowledged that He did that and taught His followers to do so as well in order that the love of God may be in us as it is in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Which of the three questions that good preaching (and Bible study) must answer is easiest and hardest for you to answer?
3. How would you describe the tone of Jesus' prayer in John 17? What do you think the tone would be if you were in His place?
4. Have you ever considered the significance of names and naming?
5. Are you aware of the fact that God is revealed by many names in the Bible? Which of His names is most significant to you?
6. Which of the names in Jesus' prayer (Father, Holy Father, Righteous Father) is most significant to you?
7. Does God seem like your holy and righteous Father?
8. Have you ever been completely confident about something that eventually turned out to be untrue?
9. Who would you say you know best? Is that the same person that knows you best? Would you say that you "know" God?
10. In the sermon, Pastor Dave said, "Everything begins with God's name. That is, all reality is rooted in God's nature. To get God's name and nature wrong, is to necessarily misinterpret everything else." Can you describe the significance of this?
11. Which of the things that the disciples (and all Christians) know about God seems most important?
12. Do you regularly experience God's love for you? Why/not?
13. How do people come to truly know God?
14. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

15. Pick a familiar passage in the Bible and try to answer the three key questions.
16. Find ten of God's names in the Bible and spend some time praying about what it would mean to really believe that about God.
17. Consider carefully the names God gives you in the Bible and spend some time praying about living fully in light of them.
18. Ask three people in your DG how you might be able to grow to experience the love of God more fully.
19. Read the Wingfeather Saga and pay attention to the significance of names and naming in it.
20. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
21. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

22. Adoration. Praise God that He is holy, righteous, and father. Praise God that He is personal and loving.
23. Confess. Confess not living according to the names of God and any ways you are keeping silent about them.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for making and continuing to make Himself, His name, His love, and His salvation known to you through Jesus. Thank God that you have the privilege of making Him known to others and for naming and knowing you.
25. Supplication. Ask God to make the preaching at Grace "really good" and through it and you to make His name known.