

By These They Will Know

John 13:34-35, 15:8, 17:20-23

55.3 million people die each year. 151,600 people die each day. 6,316 people die each hour. 105 people die each minute. (From an article by Thabiti Anyabwile, "105 People Die each Minute," *The Gospel Coalition publication Christian Living*, October 24th, 2016)

So, the question is, "How does the Gospel impact our churches to the point that people out there take notice and then want to inquire about the Good News of JESUS?"

There are three statements in the Gospel of John where Jesus states that by doing these 3 things, the world will know that you are My disciples.

I. By our love (John 13:34-35)

³⁴ ***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."***

- Leviticus 19:18, *"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."*
- Jesus' love is manifested in His obedience to the Father's will.
 - John 14:31, *"But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."*
- In the same way, if we say we love God, we ought to do what He has commanded in His Word.
 - John 14:15, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

II. By our fruit (John 15:8)

⁸ ***This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.***

- "Discipleship is not just a matter of acknowledging who Jesus is; it is having Jesus spiritually connected to our inner lives" (Gary M. Burge)
- How do we measure fruitfulness in the life of a disciple of Christ?

- Functions in the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23, ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- If you lack desire, PRAY that God will give you that desire. Psalm 40:8, *“I desire to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart.”*

III. By our unity (John 17:20-23)

²⁰ ***“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”***

- John 14:23, *“Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love Him, and we will come to Him and make our home with Him.’”*
- John 16:16, *“All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”*
- 1 John 4:13, *“We know that we live in Him [God] and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”*
- Philippians 2:1-5, *“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus...”*
- Unity is always threatened by change. However, change has gotten a bad reputation. Have you ever thought that change CAN BE GOOD!
 - Healthy things grow.
 - Growing things change.

- Changing things challenge us.
- Challenges force us to trust God.
- Trust leads to obedience.
- Obedience makes us healthy.
- Healthy things grow.
- John 17:11, *“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.”*
- V. 22 tells us that He has given us God’s glory so that we may be one. Does it imply that unity is not so much a by-product of discussion and diplomacy as it is worship, repentance, and prayer?
- Does it mean that the degree to which we seek God together will assist us to find common ground in our lives together?
 1. May our passion be tempered by kindness.
 2. May our vision be fueled by surrender.
 3. May our courage be driven by love.

Application:

1. Who do I need to show God’s love to, even when he or she does not “deserve” it?
2. Which fruit(s) of the Spirit do I need to work on? (Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)
3. How could our community of faith display more unity to the unbelieving world around it?