

Oneness (Unity) with the Father and the Son

by Bryan Gibson

Jesus, in describing His relationship with the Father, used the following phrases: “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30); “the Father is in Me, and I in Him” (John 10:38); “I am in the Father, and the Father in Me...the Father who dwells in Me” (John 14:10). But here’s what’s amazing—Jesus wants **us** to be one in **them** (the Father and the Son): “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also may be one in Us...” (John 17:20-21).

How can we be one with the Father and the Son (them in us and us in them)? If we can identify the different ways Jesus is one with the Father, then we can understand how we can be one in them. Here are three different ways in which Jesus and the Father are one, and how each relates to our unity with them.

Jesus and the Father are one in doctrine. Jesus affirmed over and over again that what He taught came from His Father, that His words were the Father’s words (John 7:14-18; 8:26-29, 40; 12:47-50; 14:24; 17:8, 14). That being the case, for us to be one in them, we must teach only what Jesus taught. And that’s exactly what these passages plainly state: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 1:9). “Therefore, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father” (1 John 2:24). There’s no getting around it—what we teach must be ONE with what Jesus taught.

Jesus and the Father are one in love. Jesus spoke often of His Father’s love (John 3:35; 5:20; 10:17; 14:21, 23; 16:27; 17:24), the very love He showed to others (“as the Father loved Me, I also have loved you”—John 15:10). This divine love is exemplified in a number of ways, including His willingness to lay down His life for the salvation of others (John 3:16; 10:11, 15, 17-18). And it’s this divine love that Jesus wants to see in us: “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which you loved Me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26). We can’t be “in them” and “them in us” unless we demonstrate this same love to others (“love one another, as I loved you—John 15:12; see also John 13:34-35; Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 3:13-18; 4:7-16).

Jesus and the Father are one in will. Not only was what Jesus taught in harmony with the Father’s will, but also what He **did** (“for I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”—John 6:38; see also 4:34; 5:30; 8:29; 14:31; 15:10). In fact, this was the very way Jesus expressed His love for the Father—“I love the Father, and as the Father gave me commandment, so I do”—John 14:31). And so, to be one with the Father and the Son, and to properly express our love, we must do as Jesus did—obey the Father’s will, or make His will our will (“he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him—1 John 3:24; see also John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 John 2:3-6). Unlike Jesus, we don’t obey

the will of God perfectly, and so in order to maintain this fellowship, we must humbly repent, confess our wrongs, and seek forgiveness from God (1 John 1:7, 9).

How is it that we can be one in the Father and the Son? How can they be in us and us in them? How do we maintain this fellowship? By making His doctrine our doctrine, His love our love, and His will our will.