

John 17:20-26

"This fully devoted relationship is what John means by 'love.' It is by abiding in this love, and being completely one that outsiders may truly know that indeed Jesus was sent by the Father."

Year C

Season of Easter

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Read the lesson: [John 17:20-26](#), The Message; or [John 17:20-26](#), The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Click here, [John 17:20-26](#), for an easy to print or email Adobe PDF version of this note.

Again, we have a small section from a much longer, more complex passage.

These verses re-iterate the central concern of John, the formation of an organic, complete, total, loyal relationship with Jesus / the community of his followers (now and in future generations) / his Father.

This fully devoted relationship is what John means by "love." It is by abiding in this love, sharing God's word and God's glory, and being completely one that outsiders may truly know / understand / realize that indeed Jesus was sent by the Father. And as verse 17:3 says:

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

And again, I would repeat that while the exclusionary language of John is antithetical to the Good News of Jesus, the vision of the community that abides in the unity of God's love is to be lifted up as a challenge to all followers of Jesus. Will the outside world indeed see in us the love and glory of God?

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* [Link to Amazon.com Bibliography for Bruce Malina, et. al.](#), Social Science Commentary on ... The Synoptic Gospels; The Gospel of John; The Book of Acts; The Letters of Paul; The Book of Revelation; and others.