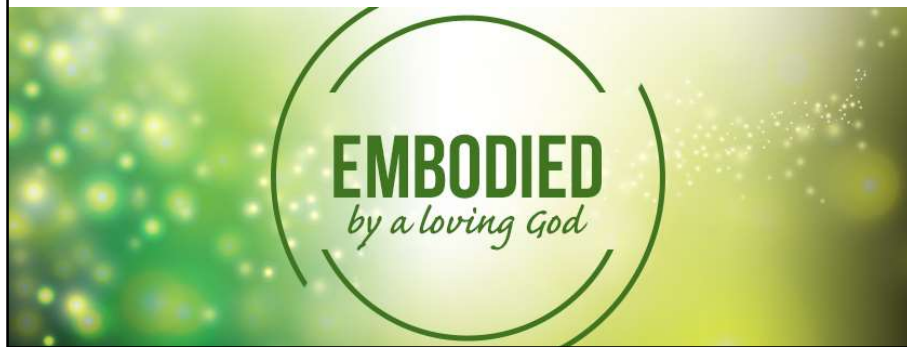


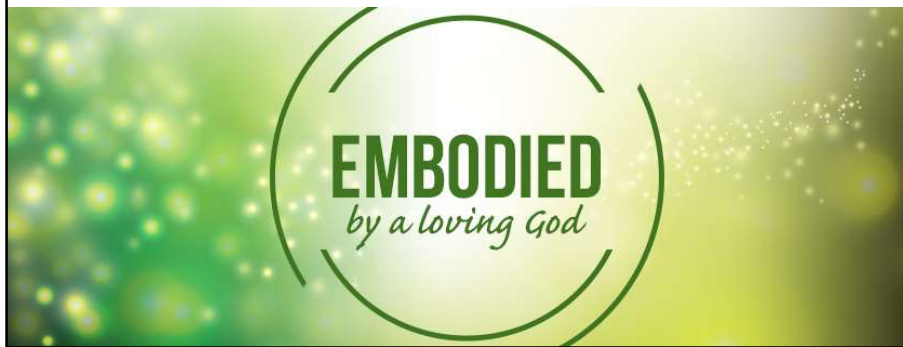
“That they may be one” is Jesus’s prayer = that his disciples may be unified in loving those in the world so they may know God. This prayer refers to a unity that moves beyond agreeing on important issues or accepting differences and into a mirroring of “the mutuality and reciprocity of the Father/Son relationship.” Here, as elsewhere in the gospels, we are given the model of the Trinity for our own relationships.

“...so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”



The foundation of the relationship of the believing community is based on the relationship of the Triune God, which the disciples glimpse in an intimate moment of Jesus' prayer in verse 23: "I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" This prayer is not just a plea for the disciples to get along or work out their problems. Rather, the disciples are claim their responsibility of continuing in the work of God through the act of reciprocating and living in mutuality, through which others on the outskirts of their community may come to see and know God.

“I have made you known to them,
and will continue to make you known in
order that Mutuality & Reciprocity
the love you have for me may be in them
and that I myself may be in them.”



Mutuality is the sharing of a feeling, action, or relationship between two or more parties.

Reciprocity means mutual dependence, action, or influence – it requires a spirit of cooperation, as well as an understanding of and ability to embrace interdependence.

Our responsibility is to work for a future that reflects God’s love and justice in the world. This prayer shows that Jesus subverts any expectations that he would wield his authority in a way that would be contrary to how God the Creator/Father and the Holy Spirit/Advocate would exist in the world.

Jesus embodies mutuality and reciprocity by asking God to be with the disciples just as God has been with him - trusting his relationship with them reveals how his vulnerability has been a model of this true unity.



Jesus is advocating for those whom God has marked by love and sent out for the benefit of the larger community to know God. In the difficult and often painful work of trying to live together in community, we are called to take steps to embody the presence of God for those “to whom [God’s] love is a stranger.”