

Tuesday Afternoon on bus, June 21 - Rick Baumgarner
“AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE”

John records the beautiful prayer of our Lord in John 17: *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – 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 as you have loved me.* Jesus says that God’s people should look different than the rest of the world. We should look so different because of the way we love and care for each other and others that folks wonder what in the world is going on. Paul’s words echo this in his early verses in the first chapter of Philippians. He uses some of the most powerful words in his letter to commend the Philippians that they accomplished what Jesus tells us to do – partner in the gospel and abound in love. David Schwoebel must have had this on his mind when he set verses three through six of chapter one to music in “*An Expression of Gratitude*”. Do you ever think of the body of Christ in this manner? Have you experienced church when we mirror the world instead of what Jesus prayed for His Bride? As human beings we all have our own ideas and opinions about most anything – politics, education, work, our neighbors – the list is endless. This attitude does not exclude the church so in light of this scripture, we should continually pray for our church. Pray right now for our ministers, staff, deacons, and lay leaders. Through prayer ask God to help you evaluate your attitude about your church. If needed, write your confession here to remind you to pray often for your church, her leaders, and attitude. In the end, let’s express our gratitude to each other!