



John - Chapter 17

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• Jesus' High
Priestly Prayer

John 17

Context

- He finished the Last Supper with 16:33 saying “but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**” – as though the inevitability of the Cross has already happened.
- Shows how God the Father is personal, with a Fatherly tenderness, first of the Lord Jesus Christ, and of us. We are His most prized possession as children of God.
- This has been referred to as a High Priestly Prayer and is a sort of farewell discourse and petition for the disciples. It is triumphant, despite the suffering that lies ahead. (**Hebrews 4:14-15, 7:25**)
- **Key Words**
 - Glorify
 - Knowing (God)
 - Eternal Life
 - The World (used 18 times)
 - Sanctify
 - In the name of
 - That they may be one

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsUCJDRNHj0>

2 Minute Video

John 17

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

- As the incarnate Son of God is returning to His Father by the shameful and painful Cross, He prays in this unique and magnificent prayer that this act will bring **GLORY** to the Father, and that His followers will be preserved from evil, while they imitate in their own relationships, the love displayed by the Father and the Son.
- Principal Themes
 - Jesus' obedience to the Father
 - Glorification of the Father through the death and exaltation of the Son
 - The Choosing of the disciples out of the world
 - The disciples mission to the world
 - Disciples unity as modelled by the unity of the Father and Son
- While the Synoptic Gospels mention many times Jesus prays, rarely is the content reported. John records two other prayers: John 11:41-42 (at tomb of Lazarus); John 12:27-27. **The Lord's Prayer of Matt. 6:6-13 was taught as a pattern of prayer for us...this is truly the LORD's PRAYER** – Jesus' direct communication to the Father.
- Obedience and Suffering are perfectly balanced among the various prayers.

John 17

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

<p>For Himself (v.1-5)</p>	<p>For His Disciples (v. 6-19)</p>	<p>For Future Believers (v.20-26)</p>
<p>1. He affirms the GLORY OF THE CROSS (v.1-2)</p>	<p>1. He prays for their KNOWLEDGE (V.6-9)</p>	<p>1. He prays for their ONENESS (V.22-22)</p>
<p>2. He expresses the very essence of ETERNAL LIFE (v.3-4)</p>	<p>2. He prays for their PERSERVERENCE (V.10-12)</p>	<p>2. He prays for their UNITY (V.23)</p>
<p>3. He rejoices in the SHARED GLORY of the Father (v.5)</p>	<p>4. He prays for their JOY (v.13)</p>	<p>3. He prays for their FUTURE PRESENCE WITH HIM (v.24-25)</p>
	<p>5. He prays for their SANCTIFICATION (V.14-17)</p>	<p>4. He prays for their MUTUAL LOVE (V.26)</p>
	<p>6. He prays for their MISSION (v.18-19)</p>	

This Chapter is considered by many as the Holy of Holies of scripture.

John 17:1

The “Hour” Has Come

- 17:1 “Jesus spoke these words, **lifted up His eyes** to heaven, and said: “**Father, the hour has come**. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,”

- Jesus raises His eyes to heaven (Heaven is up above the clouds), the normal pattern for prayer in the Bible. **Ps. 123:1; John 11:41; Mark 7:34**
- Jesus as usual addresses God as “**Father**”, but He adds “**Holy Father**” (v.11) and “**Righteous Father**” (v.25). God is personal and loving, and we are His children.
- “**the hour**” = **The CROSS** - many times in John Jesus says the “hour” has not yet come (**John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20**) but now it has. Jesus knew in advance the hour of the Cross.
- The “hour” is the appointed time for Jesus’ death/exaltation and glorification, in which the **Redemptive plan of the Father is divinely fulfilled – the crux of history/eternity**.
- **God would become the sacrifice for sin, extending backward and forward in eternity to all who believed. He would become sin for us so we could become the righteousness of God in Him. Prophecies of OT fulfilled (Is. 53).**

John 17:1

Glory of the Cross

- 17:1 “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,”
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- There is only one request He makes for Himself **“Glorify Your Son”**
 - **GLORIFY** – can mean:
 - to praise or praise,
 - the pre-existent state that Jesus had with the Father before the world was created,
 - but in this context (v.5) the primary meaning is to the **death and crucifixion since whenever Jesus talks about His death, He always calls it Glorification** - John 3:14
 - The result of this exaltation will be to **restore Him to the Glorified splendour that He shared with the Father before He came to earth in flesh incarnate.**
 - Jesus deserves Glory because of **WHO HE IS** (v.2) & **WHAT HE HAS DONE** (v.3-4)

John 17:2-3

Authority

- 17:2-3 “... as You have **given Him authority** over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And **this is eternal life**, that they may know You, the **only true God, and Jesus Christ** whom You have sent.”

- Jesus has total authority over everything, earthly and spiritual
 - **He had authority to: heal the sick, forgive sin, cast out demons, raise the dead, cleanse the Temple, over nature and Satan himself.**
- **The Redemptive Plan of God** – refers to the Father’s gift to the Son, in eternity past, of authority over all humanity on the basis of the Son’s future obedience, humiliation, death, resurrection and exaltation.
- **“Given Him”** – speaks of election and pre-destination
- **Jesus’ Authority References: Mark 1:27; 2:5-7; 4:39-41; 11:27-28; Matt 7:28; 11:27; 28:18; John 1:12; 5:27; 10:18**

Eternal Life

Eternal Life is the most important truth in the Bible.

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- 17:2-3 “... as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
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- **Eternal Life** – the purpose of the Cross – **The MOST IMPORTANT TRUTH IN THE BIBLE!! This is why Jesus came, to end sin, which results in spiritual death.**
 - No one can enter Heaven without eternal life. Eternal Life is the gift Jesus came to bring, and is humanity’s greatest need. The world is spiritually dead upon birth, and needs Life. (**John 1:4; 3:16; 5:24; 10:10; 10:27-28**)
 - Death is not a funeral, but a present condition caused by sin. We need LIFE
 - **Knowledge of the Only True God and Jesus Christ** – not mere knowledge of some impersonal force or other gods, but the “**ONLY TRUE GOD**” (Deut 6:4) Statement on the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as God - not universalism – only way to God, and it is through Jesus. Also means trust and personal relationship

John 17:4-5

Work of Christ

- 17:4-5 ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished **the work which You have given Me to do.** ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, **with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**
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- Works Jesus Came to Do

1. To reveal God to Man (**John 6:29**)
 - a) To Preach (not miracles *) Mark 1:38; 13:10
 - b) To Call Sinners to Repentance (not the Righteous) Mark 2:17
Miracles validated the message that He preached was from God.
 2. To pay the Ransom Price for man's redemption; Mark 10:45
 3. To Serve & give us an example of what redeemed humanity should look like
- **V.5 – Statement of deity and pre-existence - John 1:1-3; 8:58; 16:28; Phil 2:6-11**

Not of this World

- 17:6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”
- **“manifested”** – means “revealed” – Jesus fully revealed who God is to believers; **John 1:18; Col 1:15; Heb 1:3** – To see Jesus is to See God!
- **“Your name”** – **Ex. 3:13-15; Isaiah 52:6**
- The ones who Jesus prays for belonged to God, who took them out of the world and gave them to His son, who manifested God’s name to them – **We are love offering/gift from the Father to the Son!** (doctrine of election- **Eph 1:4; Rev. 17:8**)
- **“they have kept Your Word”** – since Jesus’ words are God’s words, and Jesus is God’s self-expression, He is God’s Word incarnate (John 1:1; 14).
 - When Jesus refers to His **“words”** (**plural**) – this refers to His commands. When Jesus refers to His **“word”** (**singular**) – this refers to His message as a whole (i.e. like “the gospel”)
- While the disciples showed many failures, Jesus refers to this as obedience still since they committed themselves to **trusting and obeying** Jesus as the Messiah, as opposed to the unbelieving “world”. (**comforting to us who fail God sometimes**)

John 17:7-8

The Words of Christ

- 17:7-8 ⁷Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the **words (rhema)** which You have given Me; and **they have received them**, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have **believed** that You sent Me.
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- V.7 – A deep conviction that Jesus was speaking the very words of God, but Jesus emphasizes His dependence on the Father as well.
 - V.8 – “**Words**” – means Rhema in Greek (not logos) and does not mean Jesus’ teachings as a whole, but His actual words or utterances.
 - **Received the Words**
 - **Believed the Words**
 - How can someone truly know God if they don’t study the Word of God?
 - How can someone love God (the first commandment) if they don’t love His Word?
 - Litmus test of a Christian – Do you believe Jesus is God and the only way to the Father, and do you love to read His Words.

John 17:9

Jesus Prays for Disciples

- 17:9 “**I pray for them. I do not pray for the world** but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”
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- Jesus makes a sharp theological distinction between the Disciples & the World (world means human society functioning apart from God, in control of Satan)
 - Relationship to the World – “be ye separate” - be in the world, but not of the world
 - He still loves and cares for the world – John 3:16
 - The Father loved the world so much he sent His Son to save them, however, Jesus cannot pray for a world in active rebellion against God, other than to the end that some who now belong to the world might abandon it and accept Jesus.
 - On the Cross, Jesus prayed “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”
 - Here in Jesus’ final moments before leaving, He prays as **High Priest** for His disciples and for us. This is truly remarkable and shows the deep love that God has for his followers.

John 17:10

Jesus Claims Equality with Father

- 17:10 ¹⁰ And **all Mine are Yours**, and **Yours are Mine**, and **I am glorified in them.** ”
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- This is another massive claim of deity and equality with the Father
 - Jesus says He is glorified in the Disciples – clothing these poor and broken men with His righteousness to the point Jesus declares “I am glorified in them” – incredible.
 - Just imagine, you and I as feeble and sinful as we are, bring honor and glory to Jesus

John 17:11

Unity

- ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. **Holy Father**, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that they may be one as We are**.
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- The final reason Jesus states for giving this prayer is because He is leaving them.
 - He once again describes His passion in terms of going to the Father
 - The disciples will have to face the world's temptations and hostility (15:18-16:4) without Jesus immediate presence and protection, but they will have the Holy Spirit.
 - **“Holy Father”** –**infinitely high** (Holy) and **intimately high** (Father)
 - **Christian Unity** – “that they may be one as We are” – Rom 8:31-39
 - We may not have denomination unity, but we should have unity of purpose, mind, fellowship. The purpose is **ALWAYS EVANGELISM**.

John 17:12-13

Son of Perdition

- ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. **Those whom You gave Me I have kept**; and none of them is lost **except the son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves**.
- Jesus protected all the disciples while he was with them (speaks to eternal security), except Judas who is the “**son of perdition**” (**means one condemned to eternal damnation or destruction in hell**).
- Perdition Verses – Matt 7:13; Acts 8:20; 2 Thess 2:3; Rom 9:22, Phil 1:28, 3:19; 1 Tim 6:9; Heb 10:39; 2 Peter 2:1, 3:7; Rev 17:8, 11
- **Judas’ defection** had to occur to fulfil the scripture. **Psalm 41:9**
- V.13 - Jesus explains here why is praying in the presence of the Disciples, so they can share in His Joy. **We are to not only have joy, but Jesus’s joy!**

Not of this World

- John 17 ¹⁴ I have given them **Your Word**; and the **world has hated them** because **they are not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should **keep them from the evil one**. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- **The Word** is the very truth of the revelation of God and the knowledge of eternal life.
- **The world hates them** because the world loves its own, and the disciples are no longer of the world.
- **The Word**, presents Truth and commanding obedience, and condemns the world and exposes evil. Therefore the world hates the Word, and the Cross is an offense to those who reject it.
- **Evil One** = Satan – while Jesus defeated Him on the Cross, he is still here trying to destroy believers (1 Peter 5:8; Luke 22:31-32; Eph 6:12), but God is the believer's protector (**Ps. 27:1-3**)

John 17:17-19

Sanctification

- 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that **they also may be sanctified by the truth.**
- **Sanctify = Holiness = Set Apart for God's purposes alone** (Service) to do only what God wants and to hate all that God hates. By the Word—**Ps 119:142**
- **Holy** is an adjective for God - Angels cry “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8) .
- **V. 17 contains two truths**
 1. it is by the means of the Truth that we should be **sanctified** and
 2. that the Word of God (Scripture) is Truth.
- **In practical terms, no one can be “sanctified” without learning to think God's thoughts and learning to live in conformity with the “Word” he has given .**
- **“I also have sent them into the world”** – we are on a MISSION from GOD, with the same mission Jesus had. We are not just to sit around, we are to fulfill the Great Commission – **EVANGELISM is the PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

Sanctification

Positional Sanctification

- Absolute - Unchanging
- Eternal
- One offering of Christ on the Cross
- New place in God's eternal favor – defilement, condemnation and wrath can never attach
- **Justified** – “Not Guilty” = “**Righteous**”
- Born again, “in Christ”, new creation
- Nothing to do with feeling, but it's a fact based on the faithfulness of the Word of God.
- Happens at the moment of salvation
- God declares us set apart and holy in His eyes: “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:6)

Possessional Sanctification

- Progressive – Changing (also called practical & progressive)
- Internal – Believers have new affections and should have no desire be part of the world's affections.
- Old affections & desires are superseded by new holy longing
- Sanctified by the **Spirit** & the **Word**
- Begins with the Spirit after salvation, but we need the application of the Word to continue to grow from some areas of darkness.
- John 17:16-19 “Sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth”
- Therefore you can never be wholly sanctified without the WORD - Judge yourself daily
- Make Christ the object of your heart, run the race with patience looking to Jesus
- It's not about feeling, it's about fact first (1 John 1:9), faith second and feeling third. Satan always reverses the divine order and tells you to look for feeling.
- Just go out believing, testifying and acting on your faith, and you will know the joy and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

John 17:20-21

Jesus Prays for All Believers - UNITY

- John 17 ²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
- Jesus prays for all future generations of believers – YOU & ME!!
- **UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS in WITNESS BEARING!!** UNITY BASED ON **COMMON MORALS & BELIEFS OF TRUTH AS defined by the Word of God (all believers must believe the Truth) - Phil 2:2; Eph 4:4-6**
- This unity is what will cause others to believe that Christ is God “I see Christ in those Christians as the Father was seen in Christ” (vine and branch – chapter 15)
- Not simply a “unity of love” or an institutional unity, but it is to be **observable** by **LOVE** that is **JOYFUL, SELF-SACRIFICING, COMMITTED TO SHARED GOALS OF JESUS’ MISSION, AND BY FRUIT**

John 17:22-23

Unity in Glory

- John 17 ²² And the **glory** which You gave Me **I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the **world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**
- **Glory** – some dispute as the meaning of glory here. Normally glory refers to the manifestation of God’s character, although some think this looks forward to the time when the saints will receive glorified bodies in the eternal realm.
- The meaning is probably best interpreted as the believer’s participation in all the attributes of God through the indwelling Holy Spirit as verse 23 states (“I in them”)
- **This a compelling Evangelistic appeal** – that the world will not only know that Jesus is God, but that **believers were loved by God just as Christ was loved by God**. How can it be that God loved us this much? Meditate on this!!

Promoted to Glory

- John 17²⁴ “Father, **I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

- Jesus wants to have His people with Himself in glory after we die. Every time a believer dies, it is, in a sense, an answer to this prayer.
- If we realized this, death of a believer would be a comfort to our sorrow. **To die, is to go to be with Christ and to behold His Glory.**
- The first witness (the Baptist John 1:14) beheld His glory, and Christians get some glimpse of the glory of God here, but not in unveiled splendor, when we see Him as He is and become like Him (**1 John 3:2**)

Promoted to Glory (Heaven)

- John 17:25 “O **righteous Father!** The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ 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.**”
- The world fails to see God revealed in Jesus – they are blind, only 500 believers were left at the Crucifixion – Narrow Gate, Elect
- Declaring the Father’s name means He revealed the Father to them.
- Jesus continues to declare the Father’s name through the Holy Spirit living in believers. (“in-Christ”)
- What God desired in sending His Son was that He might form for Himself a family of children like Him – Profound! (Godet quote)

God's Love for Us

- God loves us with the same intensity and essence as He loves Jesus
- John 3:16 – God so loved the world, He have His only begotten Son
- God also so loved the world that He gives you to a lost world to give them the Gospel so they too may know Christ.
- God's love is not a sentimental love that protects us from every hurt and pain.
- God's want to use you, and send you in a lost and dying world to give everything you have to bring others to God.
- John 20:21