

John 17

An Intimate Prayer of Our Lord

Understanding the Context

- Chapter 17 is the prayer of Jesus that follows a larger section of Scripture (*John 13-16*) where Jesus is speaking only to his disciples and not to the Israelites in general.
- Chapter 17 is probably the most intimate look into the prayer life of our Lord.

What does it mean to glorify?

John 17:1

- To glorify is to make God look good. It is to do or say something in such a way as to honor the God of heaven and earth. *1 Corinthians 10:31*
- Jesus will glorify the Father by going to the cross and accomplishing the purpose for which he came to this world, which was to save his people from their sins (*Matthew 1:21*).
- The Father will glorify the Son *on the basis of the Father's pre-temporal plan to give all authority to the Son as a function of the Son's triumphant cross-work and exaltation* (Carson, page 555). *John 17:2* explains what is introduced in *John 17:1* regarding the glorifying of the Son by the Father.

Those Given to Jesus by the Father

John 17:2

- From eternity past the Father chose those for whom Jesus would die for on the cross. *Ephesians 1:4-5*
- Jesus, as the Son, died for a specific group that he called his sheep. The theological concept that describes the work of Jesus on the cross is limited atonement or particular redemption. *John 10:1-21*

Only Believers “Know” God

John 17:3

- To be a believer in Jesus Christ is to have a personal relationship with the living God.
- It is only the true believer that the Lord truly “knows.” *Matthew 7:21-23*

The Future Glory of Jesus Christ

John 17:4-5

- When God became man in the person of Jesus Christ this is what has been theologically described as the humiliation of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 4:9-10*
- When Jesus rises from the dead and ascends into heaven he will sit at the right hand of the Father and will reassume his glorified state. *Romans 8:34, John 1:1-2*

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

John 17:6-19

- No one can become a believer on his own. The Father must cause all those whom he has chosen, and for whom Jesus died, to come to a saving faith. *John 6:44*
- In the context of salvation Jesus clearly says that he is not praying for the world. He is only praying for those for whom he died.
- Jesus acknowledges his unique relationship with the Father. He is at the same time the 2nd person of the trinity and in obedience to the Father and fully God and equal with the Father. *John 10:30*

- The believer is fully protected by the Father. Jesus purchased eternal life for all those for whom he died. *Romans 8:28-39*
- The Sovereign Will of God predetermined the defection of Judas. God never loses one of his own. *Romans 9:10-24*
- As believers we do not belong to this world. Those who hate the God whom we love characterize this world. Our citizenship is in heaven. We are only here a short while until our job is done and then we go to be with the one whom we love. *Philippians 3:20*
- To sanctify is to conform to God's standards, and it is the truth of God, his word, that the Spirit uses to cause us to become Christ-like. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Jesus Prays for All Other Believers

John 17:20-26

- We are those who have believed on the message of the apostles.
- All true believers have a natural unity since we all love the same God. To love the God of Scripture means that we will desire to love those who love Him.
1 John 4:19-21, John 13:34-35
- To be a believer means that you are one who desires to have true unity with all true believers.
- Within the trinity there is love and communication between the persons of the Godhead. Our God did not need to create man because he was alone.
- To say that Jesus Christ is in the believer is to mean that the Holy Spirit works in the believer to make them Christ-like. *1 Peter 1:11, Galatians 2:20*
- The work of salvation that has been begun in us must continue until it has been completed. Nothing in all the world can stop this process. *Philippians 1:6*