

John – Chapter 17
Jesus' 7-part prayer for his disciples

1. The Glory of the Son

17:1 After Jesus said this,¹ he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come.² Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

What authority does Jesus have? _____

To whom may Jesus give eternal life? _____

What is eternal life (what is it for)? _____

How has Jesus glorified the Father? _____

How may we glorify the Father? _____

What does verse 5 indicate about Jesus? _____

2. The Work of the Son

6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours;³ you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

To whom has Jesus revealed the Father? _____

We act on what we believe. What difference does it make which of the statements below we believe?

- a. We *become* God's because we obey his Word.
- b. It is *unnecessary* to obey God's Word because we are his.
- c. We obey God's Word because we *are* his.⁴

How is *believing* described here? _____

¹ In the four previous chapters, Jesus has prepared his disciples for his imminent departure: exemplifying servanthood, telling them of the Spirit of Truth; explaining their need to abide in him as each branch needs the vine; revealing what will keep them from falling away; warning of the coming persecutions; the distinction between those who belong to him and those who do not; the promise and the need to send the Helper; the description of the Helper's ministry to them and to the world; the promise that their sorrow will turn to joy; portents of his resurrection and the birthing of the Church; the pledge of the Father's love; the direct access that he provides to the throne of God; the promise of peace in this hateful world because he has overcome the world; and his final challenge to them, "Do you now believe?"

² In John 2:4; 7:6, 7:8, and 7:30 Jesus' time had not yet come.

³ Mat 22:3; 25:34; Rom 9:25; Eph 1:4; Heb 4; Jms 4:5

⁴ That is, obedience is the hallmark of a believer, not the benchmark.

3. *The Unity of Father, Son, and Church*

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me – so that they may be one as we are one.⁵

Why does Jesus not pray for the world? _____

What does “all” in verse 10 refer to? _____

How has glory come to Christ through them? _____

What name did the Father give to protect us? ⁶ _____

How does that name make us “as one”? _____

4. *The Church is God’s Distinctive Possession*

12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

How are we protected after Christ’s ascension? _____

Was Judas given into Christ’s protection? Why or why not? _____

Why does Christ pray for us? _____

Why does the world hate us? _____

What does “not of the world” mean? ⁷ _____

5. *The Sanctification of the Church*

15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

If we’re in the world, do we have tribulation?⁸ Y / N What then does he pray for us? _____

Where are we sent and why? _____

What is the means of our sanctification? _____

How are we truly sanctified?⁹ _____

⁵ Compare Jn 14:20

⁶ See Jn 1:12, 34; 3:18

⁷ Matt 13:22; Mk 4:19; Rom 12:2 (mold or pattern); 1Cor 4:13, 5:10, 7:33-34; 2Cor 7:10; Gal 4:3; Col 2:8, 2:20; Jms 4:4; 2Pet 2:20; 1Jn 2:16

⁸ Jn 16:33 “In this world you have tribulation. Yet, be courageous. I have conquered the world.”

⁹ This is one of those tensions between the already and the not-yet. We are completely sanctified in Christ, accounted holy, righteous, and just for his name’s sake. But we are also being made holy in deed as we are conformed more and more to his likeness through trials and suffering. Jerry Bridges writes, “The road to holiness is paved with adversity” (from *Growing Your Faith*).

6. The Mission and Glory of the Church

20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Was Jesus praying for you personally? Y / N – What’s your response? _____

What was the outcome that he desired? _____

Why did he want that outcome? _____

Where does our glory come from? _____

Describe that glory: _____

Why is Christian unity so important? _____

Is the Father’s love for his Son any different than his love for us? Y / N

Do you *believe* that? () Y () N () sometimes () partly

7. The Means and Ends of the Church

24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. 25 "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

What is Christ’s desire for us? _____

Who knows the Father and that he sent his Son? _____

How do they know him? _____

How will they continue to know him? _____

What then is our role? _____

What are two effects of knowing him? _____

Do you know God? Y / N – How do you know you know him? ¹⁰ _____

¹⁰ By this we know... 1Jn 2:3; 3:10, 16, 24; 4:6, 13, 17; 5:2 – are there other ways? Jn 1:12, 6:37; Rom 8:16, 10:9; 1Cor 12:3; any others?