

John 17:18-26: As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Intro: Jesus is praying for you, guarding you, granting you His joy, & giving you His Father's Word, & the Father is keeping you & sanctifying you through His Word so that you may be one, even as Jesus & His Father are one. Jesus purchased & prayed for the profound unity of His people, so pursue unity by pursuing Him by His power.

What is the purpose of that unity? We see again & again that the purpose is for those in the world to know Christ! Jesus sends His disciples into the world as a unified body, & that oneness actually attracts the world to Christ so that all His people from every nation will one day be in His presence to behold the glory of the LORD!

Go as Jesus has sent you, pursue unity, pursue the lost & world missions, & above all, pursue Christ & His glory!

1. Jesus Sent His Disciples Into The World On A Mission

John 17:18: As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

a. The Father sent His Son Jesus into the world:

- 1) Jesus was sent into the world to glorify His Father: **John 17:4:** I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.
- 2) Jesus was sent into the world to save sinners: **John 3:16:** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

b. Jesus sends His disciples into the world:

- 1) We are sent into the world to glorify God: **1 Corinthians 10:31:** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- 2) We are sent into the world to save sinners: **1 Corinthians 9:22:** I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

Our Church's Mission Statement: Matthew 28:18-20: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Nations/People Groups = same culture/language)

c. Jesus calls us to evangelize the lost: Jesus saves us to send us out to help others come to know Him.

Kent Hughes: One day a number of years ago I called home late one afternoon to see how things were going around the house. As my wife and I talked, she said, "Oh, by the way, we received a call from the Youth Soccer Association here in town. They were wondering if you might be a coach." I said, "Well, you told them no, didn't you?" She said, "I just didn't have the heart to say no. You'll have to tell them yourself." I assured her I would be firm about that. By the time I got home, I had all my reasons laid out. I did not have time. I did not know anything about soccer. I did not want to do it. I firmly gripped the phone and dialed. As I talked to the poor woman at the other end of the line, I learned there would not be a team if I did not coach. I remember my family chuckling in the background as they heard me say, "Yes, I can do it." The only good thing was that I would get to coach one of my

sons. The next thing I knew, I was up late reading soccer books, trying to understand what a center halfback was, the offside rule, etc. Suddenly I had a coach's whistle, and I was occupied three days a week from 4 to 6 and half a day on Saturdays. The season did not go very well at the beginning. You have probably heard the saying, if the bugle gives an uncertain sound, who will follow? That described my coaching, I am afraid. Fortunately I had some good players, and the team came together as the season went on. In fact, in one of the last games of the season, we beat the number one team in the last second of the game and thus made the play-offs. On the night before the play-offs, I invited the team to my church for a potluck dinner with their parents. Even both sides of divorced parents came. Toward the end of the evening I said to them, "If it is all right with you, I would like to share something from the Word of God." The parents agreed, and I told the boys the story of David and Goliath, with practical applications. The next day we went into the play-offs. We lost in the final minutes, 1–0, but that is not where the story ends. Sunday morning when I stepped into the pulpit, I looked out at the congregation, and there were all my players wearing their orange jerseys, and their parents too—Jews, Muslims, Mormons, and several others with varying backgrounds. That began a ministry in several of those families' lives. I did not want to coach, I did not have time to do it, but because I just did not know how to say no, I ended up coaching. And that turned out to be one of the great experiences of my life. Despite my reluctance I experienced the truth that our lives are not to be ones of isolation or assimilation but of mission.

d. Jesus calls us all to support missions through prayer & giving, & He may call some of us to world

missions: We should all have a burden for this: you can give, pray, go, or be disobedient! The need is great!

- **Unreached People Group:** A people group is considered unreached when there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to engage this people group with church planting. Technically speaking, the percentage of evangelical Christians in this people group is less than 2 percent. (7,250 groups, 4.8 billion people)

- **Unengaged People Group:** Unreached people groups are unengaged when there is no church planting strategy, consistent with evangelical faith and practice, under way. Gathering believers and planting churches are the keys to establishing an effective and multiplying presence among these people groups. (3,160 groups, 283 million people)

- **George Murray (All Nations Family):** Only 5% of people that get Biblical training plan on going into missions. Of those 5%, only 9.6% go to the unreached people groups, & they receive only 1% of the church's money.

- **David Platt:** North American Christians give an average of 2.5% of their income to churches. Churches give an average of 2% to missions. So for every \$100 a North American Christian makes, 5 cents is given to missions.

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2. Jesus Sanctified Himself So That His Disciples Would Be Sanctified In Truth

John 17:19: And for their sake I consecrate [sanctify] myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Jesus didn't need to become more holy – He is, was, & always will be sinless, perfect holiness & righteousness! It means He set Himself apart for the work God called Him to do – to die & rise for the sake of His people!

Ex 40:12-13: Then you shall bring Aaron & his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting & shall wash them with water & put on Aaron the holy garments. & you shall anoint him & consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest.

Hebrews 10:14: For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Jesus does this so that we will be sanctified in the truth: **John 17:17:** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

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3. Jesus Prays For Us To Be One So That The World May Believe

John 17:20-21: I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

a. Jesus prays for us & all God's elect: John 17:20: I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word . . .

b. Notice belief in Jesus through the apostolic Word/Gospel is the only way to be saved: GOSPEL!

c. Jesus prays for all God's elect to be one: John 17:21: that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us

Richard Philips: 1) This unity is organic: [constituting a whole whose parts are mutually dependent or essentially & naturally related]

- **Vine: John 15:5:** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

- **Body: 1 Corinthians 12:27:** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

- **Family: Ephesians 1:5:** he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will

2) This unity is a spiritual union: We are in Christ & He is in us by His Spirit.

3) This unity is unity in the truth: John 16:13: When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth

Eph. 4:1-3: walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility & gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

d. 4 Hindrances To Unity: Bobby Jamieson: 1) Different personalities: Everyone is not like you.

Extroverts/Introverts; Emotional/Less emotional; Talkative/Less talkative; Different habits, quirks, mannerisms . . .

2) Other people's sin: People are going to sin against you in the church! How will you handle it?

3) Your own sin: You are going to sin against others in the church! How will you handle it?

4) Difference of opinion or conviction: Rom. 14:5-12: One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord & gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, & none of us dies to himself. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, & if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died & lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead & of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, & every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

e. Jesus prays for all God's elect to be one so that the world may believe that the Father sent Jesus: John 17:21: so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

1) The purpose of this unity is for the salvation of the world: John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

2) Does Jesus pray for the world or not? D. A. Carson: The antithesis between the disciples and the world is extremely sharp, but it should not be made absolute. The Father loves the world so much he sends his Son (3:16), who is designated the "Savior of the world" (4:42). On the other hand, the distinction between the disciples and the world should not be reduced to the merely utilitarian - as if Jesus restricts himself to praying for his disciples for no other reason than that they are his means for reaching the world. True, their mission is mentioned a few verses later, and Jesus can pray for those who will believe in him through their message. Even so, the fundamental reason for Jesus' self-imposed restriction as to whom he prays for at this point is not utilitarian or missiological but theological: "they are yours". However wide is the love of God, however salvific the stance of Jesus toward the world, there is a particular relationship of love, intimacy, disclosure, obedience, faith, dependence, joy, peace, eschatological blessing and fruitfulness that binds the disciples together and with the Godhead. These themes have

dominated the farewell discourse. The world can be prayed for only to the end that some who now belong to it might abandon in and join with others who have been chosen out of the world. There is nothing intrinsic to the "world" itself, granted what John makes of the world, that could sanction prayers on its behalf. To pray for the world, the created moral order in active rebellion against God, would be blasphemous; there is no hope for the world. There is hope only for some who now constitute the world but who will cease to be the world and will join those of whom Jesus says "for they are yours."

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4. Jesus Will Give His People Glory For The Sake Of Unity And For The Salvation Of All God's People

John 17:22-23: The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

a. Jesus will give His people His glory that the Father gave to Him: John 17:22: The glory that you have given me I have given to them

What does it mean that Jesus will give us God's glory? **Richard Phillips:** [Jesus'] manifestation of the character and blessing of God. [God with us! Immanuel! Jesus gave His disciples the presence of God! Jesus is God!]

- **John 1:14:** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **John 2:11:** This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory.

And just as Jesus was glorified on the cross, we are to follow Him in the way of humility & suffering:

Phil. 2:3-8: Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

b. Jesus gives His people this glory so that they will be perfectly one: John 17:22-23: that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one

Kent Hughes: The closer we draw to Christ, the closer we draw to one another. (Inverted cone)

Notice Jesus repeats this (4 times!); It's important! Jesus repeats Himself in prayer! You can too! Keep asking!

c. God's people will be perfectly one so that the world may know that the Father sent the Son: John 17:23: so that the world may know that you sent me

Kent Hughes: Thomas Manton said, "Divisions in the church breed atheism in the world." The converse is also true: unity in the church builds belief in the world. [When we love each other deeply, the world takes notice!]

d. God's people will be perfectly one so that the world may know that the Father loves His people just as He loves His Son, Jesus: V. 23: so that the world may know that you sent me & loved them even as you loved me.

D. A. Carson: Christians themselves have been caught up into the love of the Father for the Son, secure & content & fulfilled because they're loved by the Almighty Himself, with the very same love He reserves for His Son.

Think about how the Father loves the Son:

- **John 3:35:** The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.
 - **John 10:17:** For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.
 - **Matthew 3:17:** behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
 - **Matthew 17:5:** a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"
- God loves you this way!

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5. Jesus Prays For His People To Be With Him In Glory

V. 17:24-26: Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, & these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, & I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, & I in them.

a. Jesus desires for His people to be with Him: John 17:24: Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

1) Jesus wants His people to be with Him: V. 24: Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am [Jesus desires you! He wants to spend time with you! He wants to be in your presence!]

- **Matthew Henry:** Christ speaks here as if He did not count His own happiness complete unless He had His elect [with Him to share His happiness with Him].
- **Richard Phillips:** Indeed, to be "with Jesus" is the Christian's definition of heaven. We would agree with Samuel Rutherford, who declared, "O my Lord Jesus Christ, if I could be in heaven without Thee, it would be a hell; and if I could be in hell, and have Thee still, it would be a heaven to me, for Thou art all the heaven I want."

And you will be with Jesus & He will be with you for certain because Jesus wills it! The Father will answer!

2) Jesus wants His people to see His glory: V. 24: to see my glory that you have given me

- **Ephesians 1:20-22:** he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet
- **Revelation 5:12:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!
- **Revelation 22:1-4:** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face
- **1 John 3:2:** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
- **2 Corinthians 4:17:** For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison
- Victors we're ordained to be; By the God who set us free; What can therefore conquer me? Nothing. Hallelujah!

3) Jesus has been given this glory because He's been loved by the Father from before the foundation of the world:

V. 24: because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

b. Jesus praises His Father & describes His people: John 17:25-26: O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, & these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name

Jesus praises His Father – He calls His Father righteous – all He does is good & right!

The world doesn't know the Father, but Jesus does! And Jesus has revealed the name of His Father to His people! He has shown us God! He is God!

c. Jesus declares He will continually make the Father's name known to His people: John 17:26: & I will continue to make it known

There's always more to know of God! More in quantity (He's infinite!)& And more in quality (deeper knowledge)!

- **Ephesians 2:7:** in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- **Ephesians 3:18-19:** have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth & length & height & depth,¹⁹ & to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

d. The purpose of Jesus continuing to make known His Father's name to His people is so that God's love would be in them & Jesus would be in them: John 17:26: that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, & I in them.

Jesus began the farewell discourse with love & ends with love: John 13:1: Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Jesus prays that the same love that the Father has for the Son will be in us! He prays for us to have the power of God to love God & others!

And He prays that He would be in us: Christ in us is the hope of glory: **Col. 1:27:** Christ in you, the hope of glory.

And we get all of this because Christ's glory was hidden & crushed on that cross! And He rose up!

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Christ Jesus To The World Is Sent
God The Son In Flesh Descent
With Joy We Praise, Prepare Advent
He Consecrates Himself And Went
To The Cross Where He Was Spent
Bore God's Wrath And Curse Torment
Died And Rose To Make Ascent
To His Father And Present
His Blood, We're Free, Our Praises Vent

For From His Wrath God Does Relent
And Mercy Show To Full Extent
So Now As One We Represent
Christ Our King And Preach "Repent!"
As He Came, So We Are Sent
To Tell The World Of His Intent
Joy To The World Is Meant
To Be Found In Christ Content!

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