

Join us for

Wednesday Night Bible Study



Berea Christian Church

Our Teacher

Pastor Rob Stovall

Wednesday – March 25, 2020

Our Lord's High Priestly Prayer

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Our Lord's prayer in John 17 (starting on page 3), with which our His Upper Room Discourse concludes, is amazingly concise for of one of the most theologically rich sections of Scripture. It consists of only 650 words, and takes approximately 3 minutes and 30 seconds to read aloud, but only eternity will prove the full meaning of this precious passage!

It might be helpful to separate Jesus' petitions and propositions into the following categories:

I. The Father gave the Son...

- Authority to give eternal life (v. 2)
- People out of this world (vv. 2, 6, 9, & 24)
- A mission to accomplish (v. 4)
- Words to speak (v. 8)
- His Name (vv. 11, 12)
- Glory (vv. 22, 24)

II. The Son gives believers...

- Eternal life (v. 2)
- The Father's message (vv. 8, 14)
- Manifestation of the Father's Name (vv. 6, 22)
- Glory (v. 22)

III. The Son asks the Father to...

- Glorify Him (vv. 1, 5)
- Keep believers in the Father's Name (v. 11)
- Keep believers from the evil one (v. 15)
- Sanctify believers in the Truth (v. 17)
- Unify believers (v. 21)

IV. Disciples and the World:

- They are sent into the world (v. 18)
- They are in the world (v. 11)
- They are not of the world (v. 16)
- The world has hated them (v. 14)

- Their unity with each other, as well as their union with God, may cause the world to believe that the Father sent the Son (v. 21)

Another fascinating aspect of Jesus' prayer is found in the various ways in which the theme of "indwelling" serves the cause of unity. Jesus teaches that:

- The Father is in the Son (vv. 21, 23)
- The Son is in the Father (v. 21)
- Believers are in the Father and the Son (v. 21)
- The Son is in believers (vv. 23, 26)

Of course, the unity between members of the Triune God is quite different from the unity that redeemed creatures enjoy with their Creator! The former is ontological union, while the latter is one of spiritual communion.

Jesus' high priestly prayer is worthy of our most enthusiastic study, as we seek to imitate our great Elder Brother and Joint Heir as He approaches our Father.

John 17 New King James Version (NKJV)

Jesus Prays for Himself

17 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, ² as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He ^[a]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. 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 ^[b]with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ "I have ^[c]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. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words 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.

⁹ "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am

no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep^[d] through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*.¹² While I was with them ^[e]in the world, I kept them in ^[f]Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is ^[g]lost except the son of ^[h]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.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.¹⁷ Sanctify^[i] 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.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who ^[j]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.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.

²⁴ “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.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.”

