

Men's Sunday Night Live
Lesson 18 - John 17:1-26
Finding Identity and Purpose
The Lord's Prayer

Someone has rightly termed this chapter “The Holy of Holies of John’s Gospel.” We have the privilege of hearing the Son conversing with the Father. The great theme of these verses is that He has finished the work of salvation. Jesus prays that the Father will give Him again the glory He laid aside when He came to earth to die. The only time that His glory was revealed on earth was on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The key thought here is sanctification. A sanctified Christian is someone who is daily growing in the Word and as a result is separated more and more from the world unto the Father. Jesus asked the Father to keep the disciples (vs. 11). This request does not suggest the possibility that the disciples could lose their salvation. Verse 15 asks that they be kept from the evil one. Jesus was physically with the disciples and was able to keep them together, united in heart and purpose, separated from the world. Now that He was going back to heaven, He asked the Father to keep them.

Christians are not of this world, but they are in the world to witness for Jesus. We keep our lives clean through His Word. Jesus has actually sent us into the world to take His place (vs. 18). What a responsibility we have!

Jesus also prays for the unity of His church (vs. 21). While true Christians belong to different denominations, they are all part of the true church, the body of Christ. It is this spiritual unity in love that convinces the world of the truth of the Gospel. It is possible for Christians to differ on minor matters and still love one another in Christ.

Every Christian who dies goes to heaven because Jesus prayed (vs. 24), and the Father always answers His prayers. In verse 26, Jesus promises further revelations of the Father, which He gave to the apostles through the Spirit. He asks that we might enjoy the love of the Father in our daily lives.

Read John Chapter 17 and Answer the Following Questions

1. What is Jesus doing in verse 1?
2. What do we know about Jesus' prayer in this chapter? Who is He praying for?
3. Does verse 3 simply mean that knowing God exists is enough to have eternal life? How would you define the "know" in this verse?
4. What did Jesus mean in verse 11, "Now I am no longer in the world"?
5. What danger do the disciples face now that Jesus would no longer be with them?
6. In verse 15, Jesus doesn't ask to take them out of the world, but in verse 16 He says they are not of the world. What does this mean?
7. What does it mean to be sanctified? How can we be sanctified? (See 17:17)

8. What is the first request Jesus specifically prays for in verses 20-21? Is unity a problem for believers in the church today? Explain?

9. In what cases should we not be unified with others? How should we treat those we don't agree with?

10. What does Jesus pray for His disciples and for all who will believe in the gospel message as the disciples go out and proclaim the truth? How many times does Jesus use the word "one" in this prayer? (See 17:21-23).

11. As Jesus continues in prayer, what does He say in prayer about the purpose of Christian unity and truth among his followers? (See 17:23)

12. What would happen if the world saw Christians united together standing on the truths of His word? How would that unity affect the church today?