

January 26, 2020

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Lord Prays for His Church  
John 17

John 17 is the Lord's prayer. The prayer famously known as "the Lord's prayer" (Matthew 6:9-13), which includes a request for forgiveness, is a prayer Jesus the Lord need not and could not pray. It is for disciples to pray. But in this prayer, as should be true of prayer, our Lord reveals His heart—and truly the heart of God. It is prayer for the glory of God through the completion of our redemption.

I. God be glorified through Jesus' FINISHED WORK, 1-8.

II. God be glorified through Jesus' PRESENT AND FUTURE DISCIPLES, 9-26.

A. Father, hold them CLOSE, 9-13; 20-23.

B. Father, keep them SAFE, 14-16.

C. Father, set them APART, 16-19.

D. Father, bring them HOME, 24-26.

Disciples were taught to pray that God's name be exalted (Matthew 6:9), and Jesus reflects that desire specifying ways God would be glorified as the work of redemption comes to completion. That is, when people come to know God through faith in Jesus, experience life in Him, ultimately to enter His presence in glory for eternity.

Family Time:

Sometimes family members are "at odds" with one another, so that unity is not being experienced. How does this impact the family "mission", to be a place of nurture, mutual care, refuge, outreach, etc.? Try to identify some of the causes of disunity and discuss how to move toward a restored sense of "common life" as a family unit. How does centering your life as a family in Jesus help bring stability?

**For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:**

1. As Jesus prays for His return to glory He knows "the hour has come", a reference to the cross and His suffering. In other words, He knows the answer to His prayer to the Father requires His obedience to the point of death

(Philippians 2:8). How do the answers to prayers we pray sometimes require our obedience? Should we expect God to respond supernaturally if we lack a willingness to do His will? What is the prior commitment Jesus made (and we should make) as we go to the Father with requests?

2. Read John 17 again and note the references to glory. How do your typical prayers reflect the priority desire for God to be glorified? How well do they focus on ultimate glory, an eternal inheritance in heaven, as distinct from the cares and comforts of earth-living? Review the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray, Matthew 6:9-13, and compare the concerns expressed there with Jesus' prayer.

3. Jesus did pray for concerns He had about the disciples while they remained on earth. List these concerns as you go through John 17 again. How are they like or unlike our typical prayers?

4. Jesus knew the answer to His prayers for the completion of salvation, through His finished work and the faith of his followers, would involve both his suffering as well as theirs (see John 15:18-25; 16:33). Paul learned that sometimes God allows suffering to continue as a way to demonstrate his power and thus be glorified (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). How well do we accept the concept that God's glory is a greater concern than our comfort? Is that reflected in the way we pray, and if not, how ought we to pray?

**NEXT WEEK:** Pastor Andy McClellan,  
Colossians: "Unrivaled"