

## Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of March 13, 2022

John 17:20-26

**Sermon Series:** *This is Love*

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This is the end of the Upper Room teaching (Farewell Discourse). John 17 is called by some, "The High Priestly Prayer." It is the longest prayer of Jesus and a summary of His coming, His work, God's purpose, and His love. As we have seen in the previous chapters, Jesus is going back to be with the Father (though they were never out of fellowship or distant). Jesus has called the disciples to continue the mission, to continue to love as He loves, and to continue His purpose to make the truth of God known.

### GOOD DESIRES

It is common that we have good desires for the people that we love. Who and what comes to mind as you think about the people in your life? (e.g. a child, a grandchild)

In His prayer, Jesus expresses His desires for all disciples. It is a beautiful picture of His intimacy with the Father and His desire that we too complete our journey to help others enter into the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in glory.

### GOD'S DESIRES

We are continuing in Jesus' final prayer before He goes to the cross. In the first portion of chapter 17, Jesus spoke with the Father about His mission to reveal the Father to His disciples. Read John 17:20-26 as Jesus continues to pray. Consider these questions:

For whom is Jesus praying?

He prays for His current disciples and those who will believe through them.

What does Jesus ask the Father to do?

- That they continue the message
- That they be "one" as the Father is in Him and He is in the disciples.
- That they are "in us" that the world may believe that you have sent me
- That they be brought to complete unity
- That those who believe may one day be with Jesus in His glory
- That they may experience the fullness of the Father's love for Jesus

How would you describe what it means to be "one" in this chapter?

Here is a summary of the different aspects of being "one" in these chapters:

- Observable oneness – the world will know that the Father sent Jesus to reveal Him
- Through adherence to the gospel
- Through their love for one another
- Through their willingness to self-sacrifice for one another and the kingdom
- Through their commitment to the mission of bringing the gospel to the world
- Through this love and dependence on God for life and fruitfulness

Who is the audience of the 'oneness' of believers? What are the signs of their oneness?

Jesus wants the world to know that He was sent by the Father to reveal the Father, His love, and His plans for those who believe. The signs: (repeat from above)

- Observable oneness – the world will know that the Father sent Jesus to reveal Him
- adherence to the gospel
- their love for one another
- their willingness to self-sacrifice for one another and the kingdom
- their commitment to the mission of bringing the gospel to the world
- love and dependence on God for life and fruitfulness

If "glory" is defined as 'the manifestation or revelation of our glorious God,' how is it that we have received glory? (22) How do we glorify God in this life? (23) When will Jesus' glory be fully realized? (24)

Jesus glorified the Father by revealing Him, by making the good news known, by teaching that people can dwell with God forever through faith in Jesus. This is how we received glory.

We now glorify God by revealing what Jesus taught us. We will fully realize His glory when we are with Him in glory ("with me where I am, and to see my glory" – v. 24)

How is it that all that we are, have, and will be is tied to God's love? How is His love described in this passage?

It was out of God's love that He sent Jesus, it was out of God's love that Jesus saves us, it is out of God's love that we will dwell with God in glory.

What does Jesus pray will happen to the world through us? How will it occur?

"to let the world know [purpose] that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (23) and "in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." (26)

### **APPLYING THIS TO OUR LIVES**

It is so important that we understand live in the truth of God's amazing love for us. It is also important that we understand our mission is to make God known. Who can you have a conversation with about God's love this week?

Sharing these truths with other believers and with friends in the world blesses both the speaker and the hearer. It also helps us continue Jesus' mission to make God known.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

How is the oneness of the Father and the Son also our oneness? How is this oneness expressed through us?

It is an amazing thing that we are invited into the very fellowship, oneness, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

What is Jesus' ultimate desire for those who believe? (v. 24, see also John 17:3; Revelation 21:3.) What does that tell us about God's character and His master plan for people?

That they dwell with God in glory. This has always been His master plan. 1 Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, so that He might bring us to God."

If you are helping a new believer understand his/her purpose in this life, what could you share from this passage?

This passage is loaded with clarity of God's character, God's love, unity of the Father-Son relationship, God's desire for us (to dwell with Him), and His master plan to send His Son.

May God be glorified in your fellowship, your worship, and your prayers.

Steve