

The Gospel According To John

Jesus' High-Priestly Prayer – part two

John 17:6-19

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

The Reason for Praying for Them (6-11a)

- They are the ones the Father had given Him.
 - This gift is not rooted in anything in them, for they were part of the wicked world but God gave them to Jesus “out of the world” (15:19).
 - Election is not your salvation (chosen **unto** salvation. You were not regenerated nor justified before the foundation of the world. You were redeemed at the cross and justified when the Spirit of God by faith applied that saving work to you, a poor miserable repentant sinner). *Ephesians 1:4, 2:1-3*
- They are the ones to whom He has manifested the Father's name.
 - It is to these people that Jesus has revealed God's name; which is to make God's character known in a saving way.
- They are the ones who have received and kept the Father's words.
 - They kept God's Word – seems to refer to the gospel, not their mature conformity to the details of Jesus teaching.
 - The contrast is the belief and obedience of the disciples with the unbelief and disobedience of the world.
 - Notice that in these verses the Father gave the Son a people who obey the Father, accept His words (commands) when communicated by Jesus, and believe that Jesus is who He says He is. This doesn't sound so amazing, but it is the polar opposite of OC Israel and it took a work of God to create them. *Ezekiel 36:24-27, John 1:10-12*
- They are the ones who have believed Jesus is from the Father.
 - The disciples had not yet grasped how Jesus was to fulfill the OT prophecies of kingship, sacrifice, priesthood, and the suffering servant, but they had a deep conviction that Jesus was God's messenger and that He had been sent by God and everything He spoke was God's truth.
- They are the ones who belong to both the Father and Jesus.
 - A priest functions on behalf of his people – those he represents. For them he prays (intercedes) and provides sacrifice (v. 9). *Ex. 28:9-12, 29-30; Lev. 16:21*
 - This could only be said if Jesus was one essence with the Father.
- They are the ones in whom Jesus is to be glorified.
- They are the ones who have a mission in the world.

Jesus Prays for Their Protection (v. 11b-16)

- That they might be one
 - Christ's prayer is that God would preserve/protect the disciples so that they would be a people totally unified in their utter allegiance to the Gospel - the entire plan of God and the cause of Christ lived out. *Philippians 1:19-21, 2:2*
- That they might have Christ's joy in them.
- That they might be kept from the evil one.

Jesus Prays for Their Sanctification (Set Apart for “Mission Impossible”) (v. 17-19)

- Through the truth of God’s Word
 - *In practical terms, no-one can be ‘sanctified’ or set apart for the Lord’s use without learning to think God’s thoughts after him, without learning to live in conformity with the ‘word’ he has graciously given (Carson, 566). Romans 12:1-2*

- Because Jesus is sending them into the world
 - We have been “sent into the world” that hates us because of Christ and His message in order to lay our lives down for others, as Christ did. We do this so that we might gather in God’s people and thereby glorify God. *2 Timothy 2:10*

- Through Christ’s sanctification
 - Jesus consecrated Himself as a priest and offered Himself as a sacrifice in order that His disciples might be made a holy people. *Eph. 5:25-27; Heb. 9:14, 10:9-10 (compare language of Deut. 15:19, 21)*