



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: September 6, 2020

Passage: John 17

Theme: Glory and Grace through Christ's Church

Jesus' prayer is a prayer of consecration (setting apart for a specific purpose):

- Consecration of Jesus to his Father's work
- Consecration of Jesus' followers to his Father's mission in the world
 - His prayer informs the church's identity and priorities

17:1a - "After he said these things..."

- Farewell Discourse (chs. 13-16)
 - Serve one another; love one another (13)
 - Believe in God, believe on Christ - (14:1-14)
 - The Helper (paraclete) will come (14:15-31)
 - I am the true Vine - remain in my love (15:1-17)
 - I have been hated; you will be hated (15:18-27)
 - I will empower you by my Spirit (16:1-15)
 - I will turn your sorrow into joy (16:16-24)
 - I give you peace in trouble (16:25-33)
1. 17:1b-8 :: Jesus prays for his and his Father's glory
 - a. (v. 1) Jesus and his Father are so united that to give glory to the one is to give glory to the other
 - b. (v. 2) God's plan was always to glorify himself by giving life to the world through the person and work of Jesus
 - c. (vv. 2-3) To exist for God's glory (our first conviction) is to continuously reorient ourselves to the person and work of Jesus = discipleship
 - d. (vv. 4-8) Jesus completes his work by giving his disciples his Father's words, atoning for sin, and ascending back to the Father - *from glory to glory*
 2. 17:9-19 :: Jesus prays for his disciples
 - a. (vv. 9-10) Jesus is glorified by bringing
 - i. The church is the dwelling place of God, and therefore God's glory (Ephesians 1:20-22)
 - ii. The church is the arena in which the glory of God is displayed in the world (Ephesians 3:9-13)
 - b. (vv. 11-12) Jesus asks the Father to protect his disciples
 - c. (vv. 13-19) Jesus asks for his disciples to have his very own joy as they carry on his mission in a world that hates God, and therefore will hate them (Genesis 3:15)
 3. 17:20-26 :: Jesus prays for his future disciples

- a. (vv. 20-23) Jesus prays for unity among his disciples
 - i. The church's unity with God enables its unity with one another
 - ii. We exemplify the beauty of God's glory to the world by our shared unity
 - iii. **WARNING:** Disunity not only complicates church life, it opposes the mission of God
- b. (vv. 24-25) Jesus desires his disciples to be with him and to share in his glory
- c. (v. 26) Jesus will continue to make the Father known to his disciples through the Holy Spirit, and to the world through his church

Main Point:

The church glorifies God by participating in his life, unity, and mission in the world, with the very joy of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways do you desire glory (displays of greatness, intelligence, ability, competence, power, status, etc.)?
2. What does Jesus' desire for glory teach us about our own desires and motivation? What should be the ultimate end goal of the Christians desires? (Hint: Conviction #1)
3. What does Jesus' prayer teach us about how God glorifies himself in his church? How should this affect our view of the church?
4. What does Jesus' prayer teach us about how we should understand the world in which the church is meant to function? How do you see the world? Is it the enemy or the mission?
5. How does Jesus' request that the Father protect and preserve those who belong to Jesus give us security, confidence, and courage?
6. Where are you prone to look for joy? What does it mean to have Christ's joy?
7. How interested/ concerned/ engaged are you in the mission of God? How does this relate to your involvement in the local church?
8. How can the local church experience unity? What is the source? Why is Jesus so serious about unity within the church? How are you contributing to unity within our church? Is there any way you're contributing to disunity? Confess these areas and turn from them in faith that God will protect and preserve his church as we give ourselves to knowing Christ and proclaiming his gospel.