

Glorious Dialogue

John 17:1-8

vs. 1-5, Celebration and Request

Glory (glorify) -> the visible or invisible radiance of God's presence and being

Celebration - I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

Request - Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

Upside down reality of the kingdom.

Glorify the Son so that the Son may glorify you.

By what means?

The cross.

How can this be?

The cross is beyond offensive. It was the greatest humiliations conceivable to the ancient Mediterranean mind.

Glory is honor! Jesus will accomplish glory in the last place the world would expect it.

What will be on display?

Jesus will reveal the love and compassion the Father (God) has for human beings.

What's the point?

Eternal Life (**vs. 3**) -> that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent - Jesus Christ.

Remember: John 3:16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

To have **eternal life** is to know God, to be in relationship with him and to experience all the goodness of that relationship both in the present age and the age to come.

John 5:24 "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

To perish is to miss out on this goodness, both now and in the age to come.

Believes -> To believe in Jesus is to believe / trust in his words. Knowledge of a person is mediated through there words.

John 3:36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.

In the NT, the Father draws people to his Son. (**vs. 2**, To everyone you have given him. Again in **vs. 6**, to the people you gave me from the world.)

This drawing takes place through the proclamation of the cross.

Remember: John felt no tension between the sovereignty of God and the free will of humanity. We too need to release the tension.

Romans 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of his kindness, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Once again, what is eternal life?

Both / And

- Viewed from the human perspective, all may come to Jesus and believe in him, and in fact are required to do so (6:28–29).
- Viewed from the divine perspective, only those drawn by the Father can come and put their faith in Jesus, a perspective found also in other parts of the NT (Matthew 16:17 ; Acts 16:13–14).

Human - I have come to Jesus and I believe in him.

Divine - The Father has given you to Jesus.

Who is Jesus?

Fully divine and fully human (hypostatic union).

John 1:1, Before the incarnation, Jesus was fully present in God and fully participated in God's eternity life and glory.

John 1:14, Jesus (the Word) became flesh -> which now allowed this glory to be visible, and at times was recognized by his disciples.

vs. 4, I have glorified you on the earth. I have made your presence known.

Completing the work you gave me to do.

- *Incarnation* - dwelling (tabernacling) among humanity
- *Public ministry* - the signs and teachings of Jesus.
- *The Cross* - the ultimate act of atonement / redemption.
- *The Restoration of Creation and the Establishment of a New Humanity* - the old has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

vs. 5, Jesus is returning to the Father. J

Glory -> the "divine mode of being"

- The hour has come.
- Mutual glory -> from the Father to the Son (the completion of the Son's mission) and from the Son to the Father (the restoration of the son to the shared preexistent glory).

vs. 6-8, Name -> same theological force as "glory". The name expresses the essence of the person. The work of Jesus was to reveal the heart of God.

God has given a gift that keeps on giving.

vs. 2, You gave him authority over all people.

vs. 6, The people you gave me from the world (disciples)

vs. 14, Jesus gives to the disciples (the word).

vs. 22, Jesus gives to all believers the glory the Father has given him.

6:28, Jesus gives eternal life

All of this is for the purpose of maximum encouragement!

They have kept your word.

They know that everything you have given me is from you.

They have received them and know for certain I come from you.

They have believed that you sent me.

The atonement is the climax of the story of God's covenant faithfulness.

The purpose of the cross is not simply to forgive, but to **renew creation** and launch God's kingdom:

- The cross breaks the power of sin.
- The resurrection breaks the power of death.
- The Holy Spirit creates a renewed humanity.
- The church becomes the sign of new creation.

Question: Have you pondered the cross? Have you been encouraged by its honor (glory)? In Jesus are you able to clearly see the heart of God? Why or why not? How is the incarnation an encouragement to your daily life? How has it filled you with peace?