

Prayerful Preparation

John 17:9-19

vs. 9, I pray for them.

Remember: The World - The force, sphere, place that is in active opposition to the things of God.
• The disciples are no longer part of this world!

So...what does Jesus pray concerning the disciples? He makes three requests.

1. Protect them by your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one (**vs. 11**).
2. Protect them from the evil one (**vs. 12-16**).
3. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (**vs. 17-19**).

#1 -> Further exploration

By your name - Protection will take place through the very essence of God's being.

There is no one more able to know God's name and to reveal the very being of God.

1:18 No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him.

The disciples are now able through Jesus to have the gift of the “eternity life” of God.

This reality is what Jesus is describing when he says, “so that they may be one as we are one.”

- There is tangible fruit revealing the mutuality of relationships in God's kingdom.
- Honesty, love, intimacy, obedience, faith, dependence, hope, peace, joy, grace upon grace.
- The triune God shares all of this with the redeemed!

#2 -> From the evil one

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

The Flesh - The World - The Evil One

They all rage against the beauty and holiness of God.

The World as we know it is a giant paradox.

The world is a place of beauty.

At the same time...

The world is a place of tragedy.

So how do we manage this reality?

The disciples, aided by the Holy Spirit, will have to navigate the temptations and hostilities of the world (15:18-16:4).

Aligning with Jesus infuriates the world.

Continuing to internalize the significance of the Already / Not yet

- Jesus has already defeated the ruler of this world through his death and exaltation.
- Although the enemies end is guaranteed it does not prevent him from wreaking havoc and attempting to consume followers of Jesus.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.

Escapism is not the choice.

Holiness is not physical separation from the world rather it is separation from the world's values.

Jesus is not asking for "grit to not stumble."

He is asking for his disciples to delight in the joy of the Son who delights in the joy of the Father.

#3 -> Sanctify

Set apart as or declare holy; consecrate

There are angelic beings who non-stop cry, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" (Revelation 4:8).

Jesus too is holy! He has set apart himself (vs. 19).

So that they also may be sanctified by the truth (vs. 19).

- Sanctification for mission.
- The truth will sanctify.

To be a follower of Jesus is to be saturated in the revelation of God through his Son.

It is the Spirit that will guide them in all truth (15:13).

Sanctification (through the Spirit) is learning to think God's thoughts.

1 Peter 1:16 for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.

The world operates to suppress or deny truth.

The purpose Jesus has for the disciples (original followers) is to be sent into the world.

There are two choices in life.

1. Your life can be enveloped into the circle of the world (rebellion and lostness).
2. Your life can be enveloped into the circle of Jesus, (a meaningful relationship with your creator as adopted sons and daughters, uninhibited to speak of the good news of the kingdom, declaring the glory of the triune God.

Jesus navigated the narrow path.

Hebrews 12:2 Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Remember: The sacrifice of Jesus renews creation and launches God's kingdom.

vs. 13, Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them.

Question: Am I experiencing the tangible fruit of a relationship with the triune God? Are you walking in the "eternity life"?

Are you engaging in the world in the way Jesus would have you engage?

Are you being sanctified by the truth of Jesus' words? Is your life enveloped by the good news of Jesus?