The Word Made Flesh · A Study in John

The Most Important Prayer Ever Prayed

The High Priestly Prayer and the Heart of Christ for His Church

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Where We Are

Today is Big Day. Today we end our study on the upper room discourse. It is the night before Jesus is crucified, and He is preparing His friends, His disciples, for life without Him. There is no control here. No hidden agenda. Just a Lord who cares deeply for His sheep.

Imagine you know you were going to die, and you had one message to give your loved ones before the hour came. This is that moment. We are going to read the very last of chapter 16, talk about it briefly, and then move straight to the prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples.

> "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will see me no longer, and again a little while, and you will see me,' because I am going to the Father?" So they were saying, "What this that he says by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying 'A little while and you will see me no longer, and again a little while and you will see me'? Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she gives birth to the child she remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."
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> "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father for you, for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."
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> His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Behold, the hour is coming, indeed has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Look at how often Jesus moves to prayer in these chapters. In John 14:13-14 He says, ask in my name. In John 15:16, ask and receive. In John 16:23-24, ask and your joy will be full. And yet, as we prepare to mentioned, it sets between two other discourses, two conclusions, and depend on the Holy Spirit.

If you cross the whole upper room discourse, the pattern is unmistakable:

The Pattern of the Upper Room Discourse	
1. Love one another	John 13:34–35
2. Pray in my name and pray with faith	John 14:13–14
3. Ask on the Holy Spirit	John 14:16–17
4. Love one another	John 15:12–17
5. Pray in my name and pray with faith	John 16:23–24
6. Ask on the Holy Spirit	John 16:13–15
7. Ask on the Holy Spirit	John 16:26–27
8. Pray in my name and pray with faith	John 16:23–24

This is the chorus of the whole discourse. This is His last message. *Love one another. Pray in my name. Ask on the Holy Spirit. Pray in my name and pray with faith.* Love one another. Ask according to His will and His content, and expect the prayers to be answered. *Rely on the Holy Spirit. He will guide you into all truth.*

The Father Loves You

"So that you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God."

The Father loves us. He loves you. He wants Christians struggle with this. They live disconnected from the relation the Father actually loves them. They live living with them. They live living loved by them.

I think the reason we struggle with this is because we do not really understand why He loves us. We do not get it. What is there to love?

- We get it wrong most days we get it right.
- We give dull to our devotion.
- We get easily distracted.
- We are entitled and often ungrateful.

How could He love us? Why does He love us? *This verse answers it: because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

It is because you love Jesus. You love who He loves. And you believe. He does not love you because of what you offer. He does not love you because you do our very best. He does not love you because you get it right of the time. He does not love you because you are gifted or even thankful.

You love and trust Jesus. It's could say it this way, that is your only redeemable quality.

> *"He does not love you because of what you offer. You love and trust Jesus. That is your only redeemable quality."*

The Highly Priestly Prayer

It does not matter how many great things you accomplish, or how much money you give. That is not why the Father loves you. And what is its incredible about looking at this in the context of the upper room discourse is that Jesus has already basic that about His text love for us. He has told us that He loves us, that He loves us just as much, and for much, the same reason love has no reason. He loves us because He loves us. He loves us because He loves us.

Now that same pattern is about to appear with the Father. Jesus has given the first two the Father loves you, and the reason is that you love Jesus and believe in Him. How much does the Father love you? Just as much as I love you.

We are about to read the whole prayer in its entirety. This prayer alone is roughly ten sentences of content, and I am going to do it to you. That is our purpose. Sometimes we might although flyover preserve the content better than examining every detail of the Greek.

Jesus has now said everything He needs to say. He has given the new commandment. He has issued warnings and promises. He has told us that He has overcome the world. Sanctify them in truth. Jesus, I'm glad you've come into prominence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave me I have given to them, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

"While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture may be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

"I do not ask for them only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, even the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The Answer to His Prayer

In this prayer, Jesus reveals eternal desires He has for us, and He asks the Father for each one. His prayer for us. And there are five overarching thoughts we want to be the answer to His prayer. We want every one of these desires met, every one of these prayers answered, in our actual lives.

1. That we would know Jesus was sent from the Father

   John 17:3

   This is the starting point of Christianity. Everything both down to who we are Jesus. Jesus was sent from the Father, initiating the whole plan of salvation.

2. That we would know Jesus is the manifestation of Yahweh

   John 17:6

   Jesus is the perfect manifestation of Yahweh (Hebrews 1:3). When we see Him, we see the Father.

3. That we would be kept in His name

   John 17:11

   Jesus prays that we would not be like Judas, but that we would stay in His and His.

4. That we would be one as He and the Father are one

   John 17:11

   The standard for our unity is the Trinity, which exemplifies perfect unity and mutual indwelling without confusion. Jesus prays that we would be one as He and the Father are, Jesus says here in John 17 that we are to mean such a thing as the same nature the Godhead does. If we do not understand how the Trinity relates within itself, we will not understand how the church is to relate as a body.

   > Within the Trinity:
   >
   > - They are each one in spirit and obey one the Other. John 14:31
   > - Each Dwe is one with the Other. John 14:10–11
   > - They seek equal will of the another. John 5:19–20
   > - They withhold nothing from the another. John 16:15
   > - They love each Other as Themselves. John 15:9–10
   > - They regard Dwe another as more important than Themselves. Philippians 2:3–4
   > - They work with the same mind and goal. Philippians 2:2
   > - They are faithful to the another. John 17:11–12, 15
   > - They abide in the another. John 15:10
   > - They defend Dwe another. John 16:13–14, 26
   >
   > If we look at how the Godhead does unity, it should instruct us immediately on how the church is to do unity.

5. That we would have fullness of joy

   John 17:13

   Joy is the secret weapon of the believer, providing strength and endurance.

6. That we would be in the world but protected from the evil one

   John 17:15

   Jesus Himself prayed for our protection.

7. That we would be sanctified in truth, which is the Word

   John 17:17

   We are to allow the Word of God to sanctify us.

8. That we would be one as He and the Father are one

   John 17:21

   Jesus mentions unity. He prays it again.

9. That we would be in Them

   John 17:21

   Emphasizing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father in us.

10. That the world would believe Jesus was sent from the Father

    John 17:21

    Jesus desires that the world would be saved.

11. That we would be one as He and the Father are one

    John 17:22

    He prays for unity again, emphasizing it tends the Body.

12. That we would be perfected in unity

    John 17:23

    Not merely unified, but matured in our unity.

13. That the world would know the Father loves us as He loves Jesus

    John 17:23

    This is also about so knowing that the Father loves us as He loves Jesus.

14. That we would be with Jesus where He is

    John 17:24

    Jesus longs for us, His friends, to be with Him.

15. That we would see Jesus as He is

    John 17:24

    Jesus wants to disclose Himself fully to us.

16. That God's love for the Son would be in us

    John 17:26

    That we would love the Son as the Father loves the Son.

The Table

Here we are, at the end of the upper room discourse. For weeks we have sat at the final sermons before the cross. Listening to the last words Jesus gave His disciples before His agony. He taught us how to love one another, to ask in His name, to pray with confidence in His name, to remain faithful under pressure, and to abide in Him above all else.

But when we leaved it is Jesus, did not merely teach these things. He prayed them, aware that the people John 17 gave to the beneficiaries of Father His Church. He desires that we would remain in Him, walk in truth, live in unity, be filled with joy, know the love of the Father, and stay the holy Holy Spirit Most Holy.

And now, as we come to the Lord's Table, we remember the very thing that made all of this possible. We remember the death and Resurrection of Jesus as the cause sources are the kingdom. We bring the family of God, filled with the Spirit, and loved by the Father into our by Jesus the Son.

Communion is not merely a ritual. It is remember that every promise Jesus made to the upper room was purchased at the cross. Today we come to the Table gratefully, humbly, and in awe of what Jesus bought for us, who sought to the upper room and Jesus, remember the, and bought His people, only.

How the Church Reflects Trinitarian Unity

Scriptures for further meditation and study.

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

   "Friendly, kindness, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like minded, live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you."

2. Philippians 2:3–4

   "Never a matter for you but Christ, there is neither more nor the more, there is neither much nor friends for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

3. Romans 12:10

   "Be affectionate complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from self-ishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Let your love be genuine; hate what is evil, cling to what is good. Be kind to one another in love, honoring one another above yourselves. Do not let your zeal flagging, be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality."

4. Romans 15:5–6

   "May you see how many members we are body and all the members do not have the same function, so we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of another."

5. Ephesians 4:2–3

   "Let there be neither bitterness, clamor, and anger, and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ has forgiven you."

6. Philippians 2:1–2

   "Let us not become proud, provoking one another, envying one another."

7. Colossians 3:12–14

   "So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving each other, whenever have a complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so also should you. Beyond all these things, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."