

That You May Have Life in His Name - John 17:1-5 The High Priestly Prayer

Pastor Matt Dean

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:1-5)

Father the hour has come

- This is the moment Jesus has often referred to – pointing ahead in the gospel accounts where he would give his life as a ransom for many, as the Savior King who would redeem his people.

Glorify your Son – that the Son may glorify You

- “How will Jesus be glorified at the cross?
 - The cross will display his ability to satisfy the almighty wrath of the Father, whose worth and dignity and authority and justice are comprehensive. In order for Jesus to satisfy the Father’s justice against sin—justice owed for all the sins of all his people at all times and in all places—the worth of Jesus must equal that of the Father himself. The cross not only demonstrates the incomparable worth of Jesus; it also demonstrates his incomparable love. Jesus does not satisfy the Father’s wrath because he himself has violated the Father’s holiness, but because his people have. Jesus places himself under God’s displeasure against sin because he loves his people. Jesus does this not for himself but for others.” (James Hamilton Jr)
- How does the death of Jesus glorify the Father?
 - The moment Jesus most reveals the goodness of God is on the cross. Hanging there, suspended between earth and sky, Jesus glorifies God in a way the world has never seen. Never has the holy justice of God and the holy love of God been displayed so powerfully together. We cannot adequately understand how glorious God is without the cross. There we see his holiness and condescension, his wrath and his love, and his justice and mercy. All are perfectly displayed through the death of his Son. And in that hour, the request of Jesus is answered. In the cross the glorious wrath and love of God are revealed. The Father glorifies the Son, and the Son reveals the unparalleled goodness of the Father to us. (Matt Carter)

Jesus says the Father has given him authority over all flesh (all humanity) to give eternal life to all whom the Father has given him (note the movement from creation (all humanity) to new creation (those the Father has given Jesus)).

- Let's remember what Jesus has already said in John 6
 - ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn 6:37–40)
- ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws (*greek COMPELS*) him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn 6:44)

Jesus defines eternal life:

- ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)

What does it mean to know the only true God?

- ²³Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴but **let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord** who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.” (Je 9:23–24)
- ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach **unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.** ¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.** ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Eph 4:11–16) (NIV)

- ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, " that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Php 3:7–11)
- ² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pe 1:2–8)

⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus - though present in the upper room with the disciples – is praying to the Father with eternity's past and future in mind, from that perspective — with the cross before Him, the work is done, the mission is complete, and though great suffering is hours away – there's a greater glory that awaits Jesus, a glory that King Jesus has laid aside when He became flesh and dwelt among us. We do believe the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ perfectly displays the love and justice of God, his mercy and power to save, his grace and wisdom to redeem people for Himself.

Jesus glorified the Father on earth – and the Holy Spirit now glorifies that work in our hearts and lives, sanctifying us for the glory of God.

We see glimpses of God's glory on earth in human history

- ³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Ex 40:34–35).
- ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. ³ And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. ⁴ As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, ⁵ the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. . (Eze 43:2–5)
- ¹³ “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.¹⁴ And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. (Da 7:13–14)

⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

When you think about the glory of God — consider that word as a limited way to express the unlimited strength and honor of God, His majesty and worth, His sovereignty and works, His wisdom and power, His splendor and brightness... and Jesus had this glory before the world existed — and yet – willingly laid that glory aside for an unrivaled work of redemption for those who would trust in Him.

- ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Php 2:4–11)

Community Group Discussion:

- Share your testimony and what it means to know God in your life? (John 17:3)
- How does knowing Jesus and glorifying Jesus converge in your life? (2 Peter 1)
- Reflect on the relationship between the Church and your knowledge and maturity in Christ? (Eph 4:11-16)