

## “The Time Has Come To Pray (Part 5)”

The prayer that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest and crucifixion is recorded in John 17. What a privilege we have, through the inspired Scriptures, to draw near enough to hear Jesus praying. As Jesus continued to pray for His closest disciples, we read what He prayed in John 17:9-12: *“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. <sup>10</sup> And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”*

What a blessing it is to know that Jesus is praying and interceding for us! The heart of Jesus’ prayer for His disciples is that they would be made one in a spirit of unity. Please understand that true Christianity will never be one with a heathen world. We are *in* this world, but not *of* this world. Christ’s followers remain in this world to be His representatives and to live on mission for God. Don’t try to hide away and have zero interaction with the world. As salt and light, we must come into contact with sinners. But at the same time we must remain true to Jesus, so that we can accurately and faithfully show this world who Jesus is. That’s why we appreciate Christ’s prayer for us that God would protect us. We are to be insulated, not isolated. We must not allow worldliness into our hearts and lives.

The heart of Jesus’ prayer is that His followers would be one. It’s not God’s plan for the church to have turmoil, or be divided, or for people to get hurt or turned off. Christ’s prayer for the church is for us to get along. If we want the Gospel to move along, we must get along. There will always be differences among the members of the Body of Christ, and this is by the Holy Spirit’s design. But our differences must never divide us. The spirit of love and unity is what lets the world know that we are Christians.

### Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. Join Jesus in praying that His followers would be made one in a spirit of unity.
2. Learn to interact with sinners in this heathen world the same way Jesus did.
3. Remember: you’re the only Jesus some will ever see; you’re the only Bible some will ever read.