

A. John 17:20-26 – The Lord prayed for us too

1. John 17:20 – “ *I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word .*” Here, Jesus broadened the scope of His supplication to pray for us too. In the near future, the apostles would not only preach the gospel to the lost but would also **teach** believers how to be spiritual in daily conduct. Matthew 28:19-20a
2. John 17:21 – “... *that they may all be one; even 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 sent Me.*” Jesus prayed that we, His disciples, could have oneness with the Father, each other, and Himself (1 Jn. 1:3). He asked that our testimony **impact** the world. Our unity is twofold.
 - a. There is positional unity with God and each other that all believers possess from the point of salvation onward and then there is experiential unity with God and each other that we can experience in time, over the course of our lives. Since Jesus was praying for us to get along, He spoke of **experiential** unity in this verse. Let’s see some distinctions.
 - 1) Positional unity occurs at salvation, but experiential unity occurs **over** the course of our lives.
 - 2) Positional unity is achieved by faith, but experiential unity is achieved through **love**.
 - 3) Positional unity comes as a result of God’s actions, but experiential unity involves our individual acts of **volition**.
 - 4) Positional unity can never be lost, but experiential unity can be **lost** and may or may not be regained.
 - 5) Positional unity is static but experiential unity **fluctuates**.
 - 6) Positional unity involves eternal relationships, but experiential unity involves **daily** fellowship.
 - b. Positional unity comes at salvation and results in membership in the universal church. Experiential unity comes as a result of **fellowship** with God and others. In positional unity, individual believers are joined to the universal church. In experiential unity, believing individuals who are associated with each other become a unified church.
3. John 17:22 – “ *The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one ...*” Jesus stated that He had imparted His **glory** to those who believed in Him. Jesus imparts His glory to believers so we can have a unity among ourselves similar to the unity Jesus and the Father experience. John 17:3
 - a. In our spiritual growth, we manifest His character, Christ’s *glory*. It’s one thing to have eternal life as a possession and another to practice it in daily conduct. As we get to know God, we exhibit His glory. That’s what it means to **live** out the eternal life we possess. Romans 6:22-23
 - b. Jesus was praying that we would share in His glory, which is seen in His character and attributes. When Jesus prayed that night, He had you in mind. God did not want you to express the bitter **darkness** of Adam’s nature but to exude the awesome glory of Jesus.
4. John 17:23 – In this prayer, Jesus shared the purpose for *abiding in Christ* and *Christ abiding in [us]*. We should abide in Christ so we can come to enjoy true **unity**. Unity is something the world can never experience.
 - a. John 17:23a – “ *I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity...*” Unity is perfected when we understand **who** we are in Christ. Unity is based in our identification with Christ and His identification with us and the Father.
 - 1) Don’t listen to those who reject sound Bible teaching because, as they erroneously propose, “Christ unites but doctrine divides.” We **need** to know truth. Christ is truth. Truth mutually believed builds a strong bridge of unity in the body of Christ. John 8:32, Acts 20:27, 1 Timothy 4:16, 2 Timothy 1:13-14
 - 2) God wants us to mature. This verse teaches that as we understand our position in Christ, we are *perfected in unity*. *Perfected* carries the idea of being brought to a level of completeness or **maturity**.
 - b. John 17:23b – “... *so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me .*” Knowledge that Christ was sent forth from the Father and that they are loved to the same degree the Father loved Christ is **essential** to our faith and purpose in life. John 17:17,19
 - 1) If we do not understand what God went through to save us when He sacrificed to send Jesus to die for our sins, we do not understand the love God has for us. He gave up His Son so we could be saved. When we come to believe He loves us to the depth and **degree** He loves Jesus, we will be radically changed. Ephesians 3:14-19
 - 2) The believer who comes to realize God’s great love will be **wowed** into a closeness with God. God’s love has that kind of impact and sway on us. His love for us is true, but we often miss it. This is why Jesus

The Gospel of John

made it a matter of prayer. 2 Corinthians 5:14

5. John 17:24a – “*Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am...*” Jesus longingly prayed for His disciples to have the joy of seeing Him again in person. The day that happens, we will see Christ in all of His glory. It will be a **day** to be remembered throughout all eternity, the reunion of reunions. John 6:40, Revelation 22:20
6. John 17:24b – “*...so that they may see My glory which You have given Me...*” This phrase shows that Jesus was thinking of the distant future and not simply His post resurrection appearances. Our destiny includes the incredible **honor** of worshiping and beholding the unveiled glory of Christ. John 14:2-3, 1 Corinthians 13:12, Revelation 1:13-16
7. John 17:24c – “*...for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*” Jesus wanted the disciples to experience His preincarnate glory; therefore, in the presence of His listening disciples, Jesus reminded God of His love for Him before the world was made or **time** began.
 - a. God loved Jesus and gave Jesus His glory long before there was ever a world. Jesus now has that glory fully **restored**. We will be amazed beyond words or imagination when we finally experience the full extent of His divine glory. Revelation 1:12-17
 - b. It is interesting that in all this prayer He did not ask for His disciples to be healthy, successful or **rich**; He asked that they would be with Him and experience the fullness of His unveiled glory.
8. John 17:25 – “*O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me ...*” Jesus called God His righteous Father, for indeed God alone is **righteous**. God is perfectly good, truthful and just. This verse certifies once again that Jesus came from heaven. 1 John 1:1-3
 - a. This is the only place in scripture where God is referred to as the *righteous Father*, and of course it is Jesus who called Him by that title. Earlier Jesus had referred to His Father as **holy** Father (Jn. 17:11), which is likewise found only once in scripture. Jesus knew the Father and His true essence and therefore aptly revealed Him everywhere. John 5:43
 - b. Jesus said that even though the corrupt world system had never known God, He certainly knew Him. Jesus had always known the Father. This corrupt world has lurked defiantly in the darkness of willful ignorance. Jesus’ disciples understood that God sent the Son on a special **mission** to reveal the Father to the world, and He did so beautifully.
9. John 17:26 – Here we have the **conclusion** to the amazing high priestly prayer of Jesus. As He closed, Jesus reminded the Father that He had faithfully disclosed Him to the disciples.
 - a. John 17:26a – “*... and I have made Your name known to them and will make it known...*” Right from the start (Jn. 1:18), John wrote that Jesus had seen the Father and proclaimed His name. Jesus added, “*and will make it known,*” meaning He would **continue** to reveal the Father’s name in the future. Jesus had two goals in mind.
 - b. John 17:26b – “*... so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them...*” Jesus had revealed the Father to His followers so that God’s amazing love for Christ would be in them. Amazingly, Jesus wanted the very same profound love God had for Him to **flood** the disciples’ hearts and minds. Romans 5:5, Ephesians 3:17-19

John 17:26c – “*...and I in them.*” Jesus revealed the Father so that He could consistently abide in their lives. Jesus lives in every believer by means of the Holy Spirit, but the question is this, is He fully **at home** in your life? Fellowship with Jesus is found in a consistent walk of faith. Ephesians 3:14-17a