

Jesus Prayed for Us

John 17:20-26

What a person prays for reveals their priorities. It provides a glimpse into what they value and hold most dear. In John 17, Jesus prays for himself (1-5), his disciples (6-19), and for future believers (20-26).

The way the prayer begins (17:1) and ends (18:1) links it to the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17). It indicates that Jesus most likely prayed it in the upper room before he entered the Garden of Gethsemane.

As Jesus thought about those who would believe on him through the witness of his disciples, he prayed for their unity, their glory, and their love. **Jesus prayed that we would demonstrate unity, that we would focus on our eternal destiny, and that we would experience the love of God.**

Jesus prayed that we would demonstrate unity (20-23)

Jesus prayed for those who would believe the message of the disciples (20). That includes all of us.

Jesus prayed for unity of all believers (21).

Unity is not uniformity, unanimity, or unification.

We must be one in our love for one another, our submission to the authority of Scripture, and in our commitment to Jesus' mission.

Unity in the body of Christ will result in people believing that Jesus was sent by God the Father.

Jesus brought the full knowledge of God to his disciples (22). When we understand that message, we become partakers of that glory.

Jesus wanted the unity among believers to be so great and so clear that the world would believe Jesus' message (23).

All three members of the Godhead indwell Christians.

Unity, however, is not the ultimate goal. The end goal is witness, convincing the world of the truth about Jesus.

Jesus prayed that we would focus on our ultimate destiny (24)

Jesus wanted all believers (his present disciples and future believers) to see the glory that the Father would restore to the Son (24). This takes place when we step into his presence in heaven, after death or the Rapture.

Jesus prayed that we would experience the love of God (25-26)

Jesus addresses his request to "righteous Father" (25). The title only appears here in the New Testament and appeals to the justice of God.

Christ's vow is that he will continue to reveal the Father to us and to help us experience the Father's love (26).

Principles to Practice

Pray for unity in the body of Christ.

Pray that people will come to faith because of our unity and witness.

Pray that we will stay focused on heaven and the glory we will receive.

Pray that we will experience the love of God and share it with others.