

# The Lord's Prayer for His Future Disciples - John 17

Presented by Brent Paschall – [brent@brentnrachel.com](mailto:brent@brentnrachel.com)

June 2012 at Blue Ridge Church of Christ – [www.blueridgecoc.org](http://www.blueridgecoc.org)

## I. Introduction

- A. The longest recorded prayer of Jesus
- B. The last extended teaching of Christ before His death
- C. Not what we would expect as a prayer:
  - 1. Child-like faith
  - 2. Eternal truths expressed very simply
  - 3. Earnest repetition
- D. Value of studying this prayer:
  - 1. Understand that Jesus took our faith personally, He was praying for us nearly 2000 years ago
  - 2. Understand the things that Jesus had most concern with in the hours immediately preceding His death
  - 3. Learn to see ourselves as Jesus sees us
  - 4. Learn what Jesus wants for us
- E. Structure
  - 1. Jesus prays for Himself (v 1-5)
  - 2. For his band of disciples (v. 6-19)
  - 3. For all future believers (v. 20-26)

II. KEY THOUGHT: We will look briefly at his prayer for the apostles, and then focus on the last section to discover what Jesus prayed on behalf of us, his future disciples.

## III. For the Apostles (v. 9-19)

- A. What they are:
  - 1. Belong to the Father (v. 6)
  - 2. Were given to Jesus by the Father (v. 6)
  - 3. Kept the Father's word (v. 6)
    - a) Mat 16:15-20
  - 4. Know that what Jesus had been given was from the Father (v. 7)
    - a) Joh 16:30

5. Received the Father's words from Jesus (v. 8)
  - a) Singular v. 6 vs Plural v. 8
  - b) Joh 6:67-69
6. Know that Jesus came from the Father (v. 8)
  - a) Joh 16:30
7. Believe that the Father sent Jesus (v. 8)
8. Jesus is glorified in them (v. 10)
  - a) In spite of their past, present and future shortcomings and failings.

**9. Relationship to the world**

- a) Are in the world (v.11)**
- b) Are hated by the world (v. 14)**
- c) Are not of the world (v. 14, 16)**
- d) Are sent into the world by Jesus (v. 18)**

**(1) Mar 3:14**

**(2) Luk 9:2**

**(3) Joh 20:21**

**B. Requests:**

1. Keep them in Jesus' name (v. 11)
- 2. That they may be one (v. 11)**
  - a) Oneness of will and spirit, not oneness of person**
  - b) Like the oneness of Christ and the Father**
  - c) They were lacking in this area (Luk 22:24)**
3. That they may have Jesus' joy fulfilled in themselves (v. 13)
  - a) This joy comes from
    - (1) knowing how Jesus cares for us, and represents us to the Father
    - (2) Joh 16:24 – and knowing that what we ask for, He will provide
  - b) That is why He spoke these things in the world (v. 13)
    - (1) He prayed these words in their presence
    - (2) He continues to intercede in heaven

(3) We know how he represents us there because He spoke these things here

4. Keep them from the evil one (v. 15)
5. Sanctify them in the truth of God's word (v. 17)
  - a) 1Th 5:23
  - b) Consecrated to a life of useful service

#### IV. For all Disciples (v. 20-26)

##### A. What they are:

1. Believers in the words of the original disciples (v. 20)
  - a) "Through the agency of conversation and preaching, blessed privilege open to all believers thus to win men to Christ, but an agency sadly limited by the lives of those who speak in Christ's name." - Robertson
2. Possessors of Christ's glory (v. 22)
3. Those that know that the Father sent Jesus (v. 25)

##### B. What Christ has done for them:

1. Prayed for them (v. 20)
2. Gave them His glory (v. 22)
  - a) We can also be sons of God (Joh 1:12-13)
3. Made the Father's name known to them, and continues to (v. 26)
  - a) Continued to reveal through the Spirit
  - b) Joh 16:12, 25;
  - c) Mat 28:20

##### C. What Jesus wants for them:

1. That they may be one (v. 21)
  - a) As Christ and the Father are one
  - b) The disciple's unity with each other is founded upon their individual oneness with the Godhead
2. That because of their oneness, the world may believe that the Father sent Jesus (v. 21)
  - a) The lack of oneness among Christians hinders the world from believing in Christ

- b) Results in some rejecting Christ which would otherwise believe
- 3. That they may be one (v. 22)
  - a) The Father is in us through Christ (v. 23)
- 4. That because of their oneness, the world may know that the Father sent Jesus, and that the Father loves them (v. 23)
  - a) Our oneness shows that the Father sent Christ
  - b) Our oneness shows that the Father loves us
  - c) Our love for one another demonstrates this
  - d) God loves us as He loves Jesus!!!
- 5. That they may be with Jesus (v. 24)
  - a) Joh 12:26
  - b) Joh 13:36
  - c) Joh 14:3
  - d) Rom 8:17
- 6. That they may see Christ's glory (v. 24)
  - a) 1Jo 3:2
  - b) This request and the one before can only be fulfilled upon our death, or Christ's return.
    - (1) Jesus sees the end of our lives as the beginning of reunion with Him
    - (2) Jesus was concerned not only with our lives, but our deaths
    - (3) When a saint dies this prayer is, in a sense answered: "I desire that they who you have given me may be with me where I am, to see my glory"
- 7. That the love of the Father may be in them (v. 26)
  - a) The Father loves us with the same love that He loves His Son!!
- 8. That Jesus may be in them (v. 26)

## V. Application

- A. Jesus worked and prayed for the things He cared about:

1. He cares about me – He prayed FOR ME, when His death was only a few hours away
- B. Do we see ourselves as Jesus sees us?
1. Review how Jesus sees us
- C. Do we want for ourselves what Jesus wants for us?
1. Review what Jesus wants for us
  2. Jesus' requests for us "... refer to spiritual things, to heavenly blessings. Not for riches, or honor, or worldly influence, but deliverance from evil, separation from the world, qualification for duty, and a safe arrival in heaven." – Marcus Rainsford
- D. Do we have what Jesus wants for us
1. Jesus wants it and works for it and prayed for it
  2. God wants it works for it
  3. If this be true, how is it possible that we could lack these things?
    - a) Do we want it? Like Jesus and the Father?
    - b) Do we work for it? Like Jesus and the Father?
    - c) Do we pray for it? Like Jesus?
  4. If we work and pray for the things that God the Father and God the Son desire for us, then we will obtain them.
- E. Do we appreciate what earlier disciples have done for us?
- F. Is our relationship to the world the same as that of Jesus early disciples?
1. Are in the world (v.11)
  2. Are hated by the world (v. 14)
  3. Are not of the world (v. 14, 16)
  4. Are sent into the world by Jesus (v. 18)
  5. "These verses picture the Master's ideal for believers and go far towards explaining the failure of Christians in winning the world to Christ. Too often the world fails to see the difference or the gain by the change." - Robertson
- G. Will future generations of disciples benefit from what we do for them?
- H. Is Christ in us? Gal 2:20