

I. This is the *closing prayer* of the *closing discourse* of the *closing gospel*.

A. It is at the end of the Farewell Discourse.

1. In the upper room, after the institution of the Eucharist and announcement of the New Covenant.

B. It is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus.

1. It is God the Son Incarnate, praying to God the Father.
 - a) Thoroughly Trinitarian because of the sharing of the glory from all eternity.
2. *Not a teaching on prayer, but an actual prayer.*

C. It reveals the heart of God in Christ for himself, his disciples, and the world.

1. *You can tell a lot about people by what they pray for.*

II. Jesus prays for three major things.

A. The Glory of God, which is revealed in Jesus Christ. 1-5

1. That God will be seen as glorious (amazingly wonderful) through the revelation of Christ and the gospel. (12:27-28)
2. *Jesus is the gospel*, the incarnate message of God to humanity. (Heb.1:1-3)
 - a) The Cross/resurrection is the glory of God.
3. *Do we pray for God to be glorified in our circumstances?*

B. The witness, joy and preservation of his disciples, who will convey this saving message. 6-19

1. They all belong to the Father and the Son, not to the world. 10-14
2. They have an eternal purpose in a hostile environment (world). 15
3. They need and receive protection from the evil one. 15
4. *Could this be a pattern of prayer for us?*

C. The unity, destiny and mission of his church, which will take the message into the world. 20-26

1. Those who will believe through the original disciples' word.
2. The unity is crucial to the witness.

III. Up Close: Jn.17:14-23. Note 4 things.

A. Our New Life-Source. 14

1. God's word (gospel) has become our new Source. 14
2. Their life-source is not World, but God Himself. Eternal life. (Col.3:1-4)

B. Our New Purpose. 15.

1. God's *mission* has become our *purpose*.
2. Not escape, but witness to True Reality. Jn.14:6
3. Naturalism and Spiritism offer no eternal purpose.

C. Our New Identity. 16-19. (2 Cor.5:17)

1. God's purposes have become our new identity.
 - a) Sanctified = set apart for God's purposes and use.
2. Set apart in the Truth.
 - a) The world does not have this ultimate truth.
3. Sent into the world.
 - a) Apostello. (latin, misisti = mission) with that message. (Rom.1:16-17)
4. Because Jesus sanctified (consecrated ESV) himself. (?)
 - a) The Atonement cleanses us and then the Spirit regenerates us and moves us into service.

D. Our New Security. 20-23

1. God's apostolic *Word* of the gospel has *converted* us. 20
 - a) We have believed in Jesus Christ through God's Word, Christ's Word, the Apostolic Word—and we take that same Word of Life into the world.
2. God's *unity* has created *our unity*. 21 (Eph. 4:1-6)
 - a) *Trinitarian Unity IS Trinitarian Love.*
 - (1) We don't create this unity. It is ours in Christ.
 - (2) We are metaphysically *in Christ* (over 200 times mentioned in NT)
 - b) *And our unity is His voice*
 - c) **Note:** the purpose of our supernatural unity is not our comfort, but our witness. It's not just for us, but for His purposes.
3. God's *love for Christ* has become *His love for us*. 23
 - a) This is a unique, covenant love not found in the world. Jn.1:12-13.
 - b) God the Father loves you just like he loves Jesus, because you are in Christ, immersed in the eternal Trinitarian Love that IS GOD (1Jn.4:7-12). By Grace!!!

IV. So...when we reach others for Christ...

- A. God draws them into the life just described. WOW!
- B. We bring this good news because it is the Ultimate Truth from God and the best news the world will ever hear. It's ALL TRUE!