

Episode #2-17 – John 17 Part 3 - The Lord's Prayer for Unity

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have been studying the real Lord's prayer as He conversed with His Father regarding His work about to be accomplished and His disciples. Now the Lord completes His prayer.

II. John 17:20-23. Prayer for those who believe through the disciples' word.

A. V.20. He now expands the prayer, but only to "first generation believers."

B. V.21. If all believers were one, the world might believe. This request was granted! See Acts 2:44-46, 4:32. This did help the world of Israel to believe, but His enemies were not convinced! Sent=*apostello*. The Son was commissioned with authority.

C. V.22. This was true because they worked the works He did. Acts 5:13b. They would be unified in that work.

D. V.23. This is also true of us: the Lord Jesus is in us, and the Father in Him. Amazing love, that He would identify Himself with people like us! *Apostello* again. Yet the unity He prayed for here is not fulfilled among us, but was accomplished among believers in the book of Acts. It manifestly is not true now.

III. John 17:24-26. Final request and thoughts.

A. V.24. This will ultimately be the case in the *parousia*. "Foundation of the world" is an important but misunderstood phrase. The world is a system or order on the earth. Foundation = Greek *katabole*, to cast down, but "down" = down certain lines, like "down the aisle." Foundation is a good translation. Foundation is not = creation. I can found an organization without creating its members out of thin air! Someday, God will found a new order on earth, the Kingdom of God. The Father's love for the Son extends back before all worlds were founded!

B. V.25. The world was wicked, and so did not know or comprehend His righteousness. The disciples knew the Father sent the Son, so they believed the truth. *Apostello*.

C. V.26. He had not told them a special word to designate the Father, but rather told them of His character. Knowing His character would help them understand and have His love. They displayed His love in the Acts period to come.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord prayed for those who would believe through the disciples' word. He wanted them to be one as He and the Father were, and to express His character. We believers may not be able to always be unified in everything, but we too should experience unity that comes from our common love for the Lord.