

**AFTER DARKNESS, LIGHT:**  
**A STUDY OF THE HIGH-PRIESTLY PRAYER OF OUR LORD**

**Topics:** ♦ The Chief End of Jesus Christ (17:1-5) ♦ The Only Heaven There Is (17:3) ♦ What Makes a Good Disciple (17:6-8) ♦ Us and the World (17:9-10) ♦ A Prayer for Our Preservation (17:11-15) ♦ A Prayer for Our Sanctification (17:16-19) ♦ **A Prayer for Our Unity (17:20-23)** ♦ A Prayer for Our Eternal Satisfaction (17:24-26)

**A PRAYER FOR OUR UNITY (JOHN 17:20-23)**

**I. Small Beginnings**

**II. Jesus Prays for Our Unity (Jn 17:20-23)**

- A. Jesus prays for all who will believe through his disciples (v 20)
- B. The third petition of the prayer: “that they may all be *one*” (v 21)
- C. Jesus has given his disciples his glory (v 22)
  - 1. What does it mean for Jesus to give his glory to his disciples?
    - a. Does not mean that the disciples become God
    - b. Means that the disciples now possess the same majesty, and splendor, and authority, and eternal life as Christ
    - c. Other passages to consider: Eph 2:6 and 2 Pet 1:3-4
  - 2. How does Jesus’ glory accomplish our unity?
    - a. Jesus’ own glory is tied to the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:37-39)
    - b. The Holy Spirit unifies the church (1 Cor 12:13)
    - c. Jesus’ glory *is* an aspect of the Holy Spirit !!!
- D. Reiteration of the prayer: “that they become perfectly one” (v 23).
  - 1. v 23a: “I in them and you in me” explains the oneness of v 22.
  - 2. The reason Jesus gave his glory to his disciples: “that they may become perfectly one” (v 23b)
  - 3. The reason Jesus wants us unified: “so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me” (v 23c)

**Questions for further discussion:**

- 1. How do we know that Jesus was praying for us in his prayer?
- 2. What does it mean for the disciples to be one? How does Jesus describe this oneness?
- 3. Why does Jesus pray for our unity?
- 4. What is the glory that Jesus has given to his disciples? How does this glory accomplish our unity?
- 5. How should our possession of Jesus’ glory affect how we relate to other Christians with whom we may disagree?