

Jn. 17:1-10 (WCF 8:1) "Given"

For the Children: When you give things away to others you expect them to use it well. It's a bit rude if you give some of your lunch to a friend and he throws it in the bin. Or if you give someone a nice present and they immediately wreck it or lose it. Thankfully, when the Father gave us to His Son, He gave us to Someone who is just as much God as He is. The Lord Jesus will therefore never lose us or let us come to harm. Since we have been given to Christ, we belong to Him. He will look after us very well indeed.

Questions: Who is Jesus, if the Father glorifies Him, and what belongs to the Father belongs to Him as well? What did the Father and the Son agree about before the world began? How does the Lord Jesus' prayer comfort us?

Introduction:

First Point: A Prayer for Glory

- 1) Glorify You, Glorify Me: Vss. 1 and 4 show that Christ's prayer is very God-centred, with a concern for His Father's glory above all. The hour had come for the Son to glorify His Father by completing His work for us, thus showing His Father's Nature to His disciples. That was His "commission" from the Father (vss. 3,8). But there was glory from the Father for the Son in this – since He is also divine (vss. 4,5). That glory is the unveiling of His divine Nature and defeat of Satan in His work. It is seen in the Father giving all authority in heaven and earth to His Son i.e., having His Son's true glory openly manifested
- 2) The Outworking of Christ's Glory: Christ had power and authority over all flesh before the world began. In eternity the Father gave the elect to His Son, and the Son agreed to the plan of salvation that required His humiliation and death (the "covenant of redemption"). See WCF 8:1. His authority over all flesh enabled Him to save men of every nation out of the world. The accomplishing of that salvation is the other way His power and authority are seen. This "giving" (vss. 2,6,9) is the basis for the doctrine of "limited atonement." It also provides the believer with great comfort – to know the Father loved him and gave him to the Son, before time – and that the Son agreed to express the same love in His work for us

Second Point: A Prayer for Those Given Him

- 1) A Prayer of Belonging: Christ, our great High Priest, prays this "High-Priestly Prayer" also to encourage His disciples with the knowledge that we belong to Father and Son. The Father's giving of us to the Son, and His receiving of us as His sheep, indicates that ownership (v. 6). God owns us as our Creator, Provider, Ruler and Redeemer. See LD 1, Q/A 1 as well
- 2) A Covenantal Prayer: The "covenant of redemption" between Father and Son leads to the covenant of grace between God and man. There is the blessing of eternal life (v. 3) won by Christ's agreement to obey His Father on our behalf. This also results in us being given the gift of faith, a covenant condition. Christ draws attention to the fact that that faith is already seen in His disciples, as a result of His work – to the Father's glory. They have received, understood, believed and kept His words. As a result, they know Christ (as divine, with a divine mission) and therefore know the Father through Him (vss. 6-9)
- 3) A Gracious Prayer: That the elect were given by the Father and received by the Son, also implies God's initiative and grace. He gave us to His Son because He knew we would not be able to give ourselves. This grace enables us to draw great re-assurance from the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus, who shares all things with the other Persons of the Trinity

Conclusion: