

Who is Jesus?: Intercessor – Pt.3
John 17:20-26

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. **24** Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. **26** I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Introduction:

- **READ 17:1-26** (Prays for himself, His disciples and then includes all others who would follow Him)
- Much is said today about "unity." The world's standard for unity is humanistic. Literally, we are supposed to rally around our humanity, embracing diversity of all sorts.
- As believers, we are to be Christ-centered. Our unity is based on Christ's redeeming work for us. Since He will gather all those around Him who are redeemed from every tribe, tongue and nation, our unity also includes unity. However, our unity has at least a 3-fold purpose: 1) Evangelism; 2) Glorifying God; 3) Treasuring Christ.
- Let's conclude this study in Christ's intercessory prayer by understanding better what He truly desires for each one of us, all together!

Interceding for Us All (v.20)

- A) True Believers
 - a. John 17:2-5; 10:16,27-29; 6:44,64-66; 3:18-21; 1:12-13

- b. In first praying for the disciples we are assured of our own keeping – secured even against Satanic attack and defeat
- c. **Calvin**, "He began with his apostles, that their salvation, which we know to be certain, might make us more certain of our own salvation; and, therefore, whenever Satan attacks us, let us learn to meet him with this shield, that it is not to no purpose that the Son of God united us with the apostles, so that the salvation of all was bound up, as it were, in the same bundle."

- B) Through the Apostles' Words (**Eph.2:19-22**, "**19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.")

Interceding for Our Unity (vv.21-23)

- A) One together
 - a. Churches in disunity are one of the most grievous things to the Spirit of God
 - b. Every time there is disunity, there is a loss of the gospel and the presence of the Evil One.
 - c. So, the cure for disunity is the BASIS of Christ-honoring unity, nothing less!
 - d. All the more reason why it is silly to divide over lesser things than the gospel
- B) One Like God the Father and God the Son
 - a. Glory of Christ is central to this understanding
 - b. His characteristic revelation
 - c. His revealed redemptive purpose
 - i. He did not convey to us His nature
 - ii. One because of His work as Mediator
- C) One for Evangelistic Purposes
 - a. Puts Christ on display
 - b. Puts Christ's love on display (as a revelation of the love of the Father for the Son) – **1 John 4:10-12**, "**10** In this is

love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us."

- c. Lord willing, we will more fully develop this truth in our church in the summer of 2009.

Interceding for Our Glorification (v.24)

- A) His Passionate Possession
 - a. His desire
 - b. His possession
- B) His Passionate Revelation
 - a. To Be in His Presence
 - b. That We See His Glory!
 - i. Glory out of the Love of God
 - ii. Preeminent Christ
 - iii. **Col.1:18**, "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."
 - iv. **1 John 3:2**, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

Interceding for Our Treasure (vv.25-26)

- A) The Righteous Father
 - a. Connected with verse 24
 - b. Will judge the righteous and the unrighteous with equity and justice
- B) The World's Treasure is Elsewhere
 - a. They do not know
 - b. They do not believe, but remain in their disbelief
- C) The Knowledge of God through the Son
 - a. Known ONLY through the Son

- b. Known ONLY by His own
- c. Known CONTINUALLY through the Son by His own (His name)
 - i. Sanctifying effects
 - ii. **Phil.1:6**, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

D) The Believer's Treasure is in God through Christ

- a. Treasure by knowing the Love of God
- b. Indwelt, abiding Christ
 - i. **John 14:20**, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."
 - ii. **John 15:4-5**, "**4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
 - iii. Intimate personal relationship

Conclusion

- A) Essentially, Christ prays that we will have a Christ-centered unity for at least 3 primary purposes: 1) Evangelism; 2) Glorifying in Him; and 3) Treasuring Him!
- B) You can only live out this 3-fold purpose if you are a born-again, child of God. Unity is impossible apart from a common confession of faith in Jesus Christ.