

# Jesus Prays

Question 1 Jesus Prays for himself. (John 17:1-5)

- a) What “hour” has come? (see John 2:4; 12:23)
- b) Jesus is praying that the Father will glorify him. Is this a selfish prayer? Why, or why not? How is the Father going to glorify the Son? How does this mean that Jesus is glorified? (Read John 1:14-18) How does it then follow that the Father is glorified? Can you think of a word/phrase to replace “glorify”?
- c) A consequence of Jesus being glorified is that he has the authority to give eternal life to those the Father has given him (17:2). What is eternal life? When do believers get it? (see Jn 20:31)
- d) What is the connection between life and knowing? (17:3) Do believers become inherently immortal when they become Christians? Who has life inherently? (John 14:6)

Question 2 Jesus prays for his immediate disciples. (John 17:6-19)

Jesus has been telling his disciples that he is going to the Father, but he will not abandon them. Now he prays for their protection.

- a) The concepts of “in the world” (17:11) and “of the world” (17:14) are addressed in this passage. Should Christians isolate themselves from the world to protect themselves from corruption? (eg. Only work for Christians, do not go to University because of its secular approach to learning, join a monastery, only have Christian friends.) Can we be fully “in the world” or are there limits?
- b) The safe place to be kept is “in the Father’s name” (17:11,12). We have been told that if we ask for things they will be given in Jesus’ name. (16:23). Jesus said he came in his Father’s name (Jn 5:43). What does it mean to be in the Father’s name?
- c) To protect the disciples Jesus asks his Father to “sanctify them in the truth” (17:17). Sanctify means to make someone holy i.e. set apart, attached to God. If we are sanctified, we can come into the presence of the living God. How can we be sanctified **“in the truth”**? John uses the word/concept of truth more than all the other NT writers combined.
  - a. Remember the role of the Holy Spirit in Jn 16:8-11. What facts are shown to Christians?
  - b. Jesus is the truth (Jn 14:6). Who does this “truth” provide a way to? Why?
  - c. God’s word is truth (17:17). The disciples were told that they would be lead into all truth (16:13).  
So, to repeat the question. How does being in the truth keep us on God’s side? Can we do anything to be kept in the Father’s name?

Question 3

- a) In An Australian Prayer Book, the prayer for the church throughout the world in the First Form of Holy Communion prays:  
*We beseech you to inspire continually the universal church with the spirit of truth unity, and concord; and grant that all that confess your holy name may agree in the truth of your holy word, and live in unity and godly love.*
  - i) How well do you think that this prayer reflects Jesus’ prayer for the church in John 17:20-26?

- ii) If you were going to pray a prayer for the church as it is nowadays, what would you pray? Are there more important things to pray for at the moment? Do the central needs of the church ever change? Why does oneness matter?
- b) Clearly unity matters. Does unity only come into play after God has created other beings or does it have an eternal aspect? Is love a creation or an eternal? How is the unity and love that exists in the Godhead shared with Christians? There are various I am sayings in John.
  - a. The good shepherd
  - b. The bread of life
  - c. The vine
    - i. How do these sayings indicate that Jesus gives us unity?
    - ii. What is the temple?
- c) What glory has Jesus given us??? (17:22). How does this glory make us one? (17:22). What is the world supposed to realise because of the church's unity? (17:24). How does it do that?