

Have given is a perfect indicative which means it is a sure thing. It is an, already but not yet, statement that reaches down through the centuries to us and beyond. Christ is saying, "I have given all future believers the glory that you gave me."

The world is watching: (He says it twice)

^{21b} *May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* ^{23b} *Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

The highest type of spiritual oneness exists between the Father and the Son. Christ prayed that our oneness would be like theirs...as a _____ to the world.

The unity of believers reflects the Father's love.

Keys to the world seeing and believing that God sent Christ through our oneness:

- Have you been _____ to others?
- Have you been _____ with each other?
- Have you been _____ each other?
- Have you been _____ each other?
- Have you been _____ each other?
- Have you been _____ each other's burdens?
- Have you been _____ for each other?

"It's relatively easy to love folks who are just like you. But the church is to show Christ's love across racial, cultural, generational, and economic divides as we worship together and care for one another. There was no greater divide in Paul's day than that between Jews and Gentiles. But Paul emphasized that the glory of the church is that Christ removed the barrier between those two diverse groups and made them one (Eph. 2:14-22). He insists (Col. 3:11) that in the church, "there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all." When people who are divided in the world display their love for one another in the local church, the world takes notice." Deff. And Christ's prayer is answered...

Series: Biblical Gen. Ed.

Title: The Longest Prayer

Topic: Christ's prayer for us

The setting: It is Passover week, Thursday night.

Jesus is in the upper room. He has shared much with His men.

- He washed their feet. Ch 13
- He tells of His betrayer. Ch 13
- He tells of His departure. Ch 13
- He comforts the men and answers three questions. Ch 14
- He speaks on the relationship of believers to Himself. Ch 15
- He speaks on the relationships we have to each other. Ch 15
- He speaks on the relationship of believers to the world. Ch 15
- He tells of His death and resurrection. Ch 16

Christ's prayer:

The first 5 verses of chapter 17 focus on our Lord and His relationship with the Father. He prays for the Father to restore to Him the glory that He had formerly enjoyed in heaven, before His incarnation.

Verses 6-19 contain our Lord's prayer for His disciples, whom He is about to leave behind in a hostile world to carry on the ministry He began. His prayer for them is that the Father will keep them from the evil one.

John 17:20-23

Amplified: ²⁰ *I pray also for all those who will ever come to believe in Me.*

The "nots" of Christ's prayer:

1. V. 9 – not for the world.
2. V. 15 – that God would not take the disciples out of the world.
3. V. 20 – does not pray for the disciples.

Jesus knew these guys:

- Were weak.
- Were about to take a nap.
- Would soon run like the wind.
- Didn't have the faintest idea what was about to happen.
- Would lead you, and untold numbers of others, to salvation.

About the "message" that would follow from these men:

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the* _____

In the Greek: *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by a* _____

What did Jesus pray for that night? (Pertaining to our life on earth)
²¹ *that all of them (believers) may be one.*

Apart from Jesus Christ, the world is a shattered, broken, ruined disunity. In Christ, we become one. The only problem is we don't always demonstrate that oneness in our practice, do we? Every time a Christian falls into worldliness and worldly patterns, He destroys that oneness.

"This unity is both positional and practical. It is also supernatural. It is for the practical outworking of this supernatural unity that our Lord prays here. The unity of those who are believers in Jesus Christ should be visible to the unsaved world. As the world beholds this unity, they see the presence and the power of the resurrected Christ in His church. Put another way, as believers abide in Christ, Christ abides in them, and the fruit that is produced is a demonstration of our Lord's presence and power. This is a testimony to the world that Jesus really was sent from the Father, and thus that He really is Who He claimed to be—the Son of God and the Savior of the world." Deff.

What Jesus is not praying about:

He's not talking about all the denominations getting along. He's not talking about the normal topic of unity among Christians as we sometimes think of it.

What Jesus is praying for:

He's talking about an inner oneness. He is praying that we would have an experiential oneness. ²¹ *Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.* He is praying that we would have the same kind of oneness that the Father and the Son experience.

"Jesus does not petition the Father to save these people. Those who will come to faith have already been given to Him as a gift by the Father (verses 2, 24). Our Lord prays that all those who believe may be one. This is not mere organizational unity; it is an organic and functional unity. It is the same kind of unity that the Father has with the Son. As the Father is "in" the Son, and the Son is "in" the Father, and thus the two are one, so all believers are "in" Christ. Because of their unity with the Son, they are also one with the Father, and one with each other." Deffinbaugh

This oneness shows we are on the same team. To those who observe us, we are on God's team. Christ lives in us, and it shows!

The Standard: (from JM)

"And you see, all you've got to do is just worry about being like Christ and you don't have to worry about adjusting to everybody else.

A. W. Tozer: "If you've got 400 pianos and you try to tune 400 pianos to each other back and forth, you have a mess. But if you have one tuning fork, just tune them all to that one tuning fork and they'll all automatically be tuned to each other." (emphasis mine)

So, we don't need to go around on a superficial basis trying to adjust ourselves to each other, we just get plugged into God, establish our lives on God's principles, determine that we're going to be holy and separate from sin and be as much like Jesus Christ as we can and we'll never have any problem being like the others who are also like Christ. If Jesus only prayed for one thing, only one thing while we're here on earth, what a shame ... what a lack of love ... what a sick kind of selfishness that we should hinder the one thing that's all He prayed for." J Mac

Jesus only asked one thing and He said on the basis of that one thing, the world will believe ... And if you're truly a Christian, your prayer should be Christ's prayer, that the world may believe and the way they'll believe is when we have an honest, observable, holy, loving, selfless oneness.

More:

²² *I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—* ²³ *I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*