

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 17:11B

“THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER - UNITY”

Introduction

Note: This is a most unique chapter! There is no other chapter like it in the Bible!

Matthew 11:25-26; John 11:41-42; Matthew 26:39; John 12:27:28a -

John MacArthur - “Here, we are ushered into the throne room of God. Here, we eavesdrop on the communion, the eternal communion between the Son and the Father. The veil is drawn back. We’re admitted into the Holy of Holies. We approach the inner communion of the Trinity. The secret place of the Most High God is opened for us. Here, we need to remove our shoes and listen, and humble ourselves with reverent hearts because we are on the holiest of all ground.”

John 17:1-26 -

Hebrews 7:25 - “Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

1 John 2:1 - “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

I. The MEANS and MODEL of UNITY

John 17:11b - “Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.”

Note: When Jesus says “Holy Father, keep them in Your name... that they MAY BE ONE...”, that phrase “may be one” is in the PRESENT TENSE.

Note: In other words, Jesus prays that the Father will keep & maintain the unity He’s already achieved and accomplished in His people!

Ephesians 2:17-19; 3:6; 4:1-3; Galatians 3:28; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 -

Note: When it comes to unity, ours is not a creating responsibility but a preserving one.

John 11:49-53 -

Note: Jesus doesn’t ask the Father to make us one but to keep us One.

A. The MEANS of Unity... THE TRUTH

John 17:11b - “Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.”

Now that’s all well & good but what does that mean to be “kept in the Father’s name”?

John 17:6 -

Note: In a saving way, Jesus made known to His men the person & character of God and the good news of the Gospel!

John 17:8 -

Note: Jesus is saying: “In order that my disciples might continually be one, keep them in Your name, keep them in the truth that I have already revealed to them about You and the Gospel.”

John 17:17 - “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

Ephesians 4:11-13a - “And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith...”

Implication: Jesus’ prayer implies that the people of God are in serious need of being kept in the truth (in the Father’s name)!

Acts 20:28-29; Galatians 1:8-9 -

B. The MODEL of Unity... THE TRINITY

John 17:11b - “Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.”

Note: This doesn’t mean that we should try to be of one essence & nature.

Note: Christian unity is a unity that preserves the identity of the persons involved.

Three Ways that Our Unity Must Reflect the Trinity...

1) Unity of TRUTH

God the Father... **John 17:3; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18 -**

God the Son... **John 1:17; John 14:6a; John 15:1 -**

God the Spirit... **John 14:17; John 15:26; John 16:13 -**

2) Unity of PURPOSE

John 4:34; John 5:17; John 6:38; John 16:13 -

3) Unity of AFFECTION

Matthew 3:17; 17:5b; John 3:35; 5:20a; 14:31a; 16:14; 17:23-26; 13:35 -