



Sermon Title: "Our Great High Priest Prays" (Part 3)

Scripture: John 17:20-26

Pastor Chris Fritz

Sunday, August 5, 2018

I. VERSES 1-5: JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF

II. VERSES 6-19: JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

III. VERSES 20-26: JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS OF ALL TIME

A. Persistently Live-Out the Unity that Christ has Established.

1) The EXISTENCE of our unity is already a reality in Christ.

Note: Jesus prays that the Father will preserve the unity He's already established in His people!

Ephesians 2:17-19 - "And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the house of God."

"...eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3)

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..."

2) The EXAMPLE for our unity is found in God Himself, in the Trinity.

- Christian unity preserves the uniqueness of the persons involved.
- Christian unity prioritizes the truth of God's Word.
- Christian unity pursues God's purposes.
- Christian unity perseveres in love.
- Christian unity proves the validity of Jesus' claim.
- Christian unity proclaims the depth of God's love.

B. Passionately Long-For the Glory that is to Come.

C. S. Lewis - *“If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for this present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is because Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one.”*

1) Heaven, in its existence, is an absolute certainty.

Hebrews 1:3a - *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.”*

2) Heaven, in its population, has a redeemed citizenship.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

3) Heaven, in its beauty, boasts of one primary characteristic.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 - *“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”*

Psalms 16:11 - *“You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Revelation 22:3-5 - *“No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”*

Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...

1. Where does Christian unity come from? How is it preserved and maintained?
2. Is there any room for diversity within unity? How do you know?
3. Where does love factor into a conversation about love? How does love contribute to unity?
4. How can Jesus speak with such certainty about heaven and the glory to come?
5. What exactly does Jesus desire for His people, as it relates to glory?
6. Is it beneficial to think and talk about heaven and the glory to come? Why?
7. What do you look forward to most when you think about heaven?