



## Prayer of Dedication

### 36<sup>th</sup> in the “Life in his Name” Series

John 17:1-26, p. 903

June 9, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

#### Introduction

In this passage God reveals Jesus’ prayer of dedication over his own ministry and the ministry of the church.

#### The Text: John 17:1-26

1) Jesus dedicates his work to the glory of God (vv. 1-8).

*a) God’s glory is the primary goal of Jesus’ ministry and mission (vv. 1, 3-5)*

*b) The glory God receives through Jesus the Son is extended to the church (vv. 2, 6-8).*

*c) A brief reflection on the glory of God:*

- Everything God does is for his own glory:

*“He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and completely righteous will for his own glory” (LBC 2.1).*

- God’s glory is derived from God alone – we do not add to his glory, we simply declare it:

*“God has all life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of himself; he alone is all-sufficient in himself. He does not need any creature he has made nor does he derive any glory from them. Instead, he demonstrates his own glory in them, by them, to them, and upon them” (LBC 2.2).*

- God’s glory is your life’s goal:

*“Question 1: What is the chief end of man? Answer: Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever” (WSC).*

2) Jesus dedicates his church to the purposes of God (vv. 9-26).

*a) That the church may reflect and share in the glory of God (vv. 10, 22, 24).*

*b) That the church may be securely grounded in the power and truth of Christ (vv. 11-12, 17).*

*c) That the church may be unified and share in the unity of God (vv. 20-23).*

*d) That the church may experience the joy and love of God (vv. 13, 23-26).*

*e) That the church may be protected from Satan’s evil and the world’s hate (vv. 14-15).*

*f) That the church may be “set apart” from the world by its identification with God (vv. 16-17).*

*g) That the church may live on mission, sent by Jesus into the world (vv. 18-19).*

#### Response

Christ has offered a prayer of dedication for you and for Hope Church!

## Sunday Text Questions for John 17:1-26

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- 1) Starter Question: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “the glory of God?”
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) V. 1 makes clear that “the glory of God” is very important to God. How can we make the glory of God more important in our lives?
- 4) What might Jesus mean in v. 6 when he refers to the church as “the people whom you [the Father] gave me out of the world?”
- 5) What does it mean when Jesus says in v. 9: “I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me [i.e., the church]?”
- 6) Jesus prays that the church would have a unity that matches the unity of the Trinity. What would this unity look like in a local church, or even among all churches and denominations?
- 7) To be “sanctified” (vv. 17, 19) is to be set apart for a specific purpose. How can the church live as a “set apart” institution in the world? Should Christians be “Christian First?”
- 8) How should Jesus’ words in v. 18 define how an individual Christian lives and how a local church functions?
- 9) What parts of Jesus’ prayer of dedication have already come true and what parts have yet to be fulfilled?
- 10) Concluding summary: What does this text teach us about *faith* (doctrine), *hope* (desire), and/or *love* (duty)?

**Further study this week:** Isaiah 6:1-7 on the glory of God (Mon); Deuteronomy 5, esp. v. 24, on God revealing his glory (Tue); Exodus 24, esp. vv. 15-17, on God’s glory revealed to Moses (Wed); Psalm 19, esp. v. 1, on God’s glory revealed in creation (Thurs); 1 Chronicles 16 on giving God glory (Fri).