



True High Priest (John 17)

Notes: Week Seventeen

John 17 (HCSB)

Jesus Prays for Himself

17 Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said:

Father,

the hour has come.

Glorify Your Son

so that the Son may glorify You,

² for You gave Him authority

over all flesh,^[a]

so He may give eternal life

to all You have given Him.

³ This is eternal life:

that they may know You, the only true God,

and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ.

⁴ I have glorified You on the earth

by completing the work You gave Me to do.

⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence

with that glory I had with You

before the world existed.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ I have revealed Your name

to the men You gave Me from the world.

They were Yours, You gave them to Me,

and they have kept Your word.

⁷ Now they know that all things

You have given to Me are from You,

⁸ because the words that You gave Me,

I have given them.

They have received them

and have known for certain

that I came from You.

They have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ I pray^[b] for them.

I am not praying for the world

but for those You have given Me,

because they are Yours.

¹⁰ Everything I have is Yours,

and everything You have is Mine,

and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ I am no longer in the world,

but they are in the world,

and I am coming to You.
Holy Father,
protect^[c] them by Your name
that You have given Me,
so that they may be one as We are one.
¹² While I was with them,
I was protecting them by Your name
that You have given Me.
I guarded them and not one of them is lost,
except the son of destruction,^[d]
so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.
¹³ Now I am coming to You,
and I speak these things in the world
so that they may have My joy completed in them.
¹⁴ I have given them Your word.
The world hated them
because they are not of the world,
as I am not of the world.
¹⁵ I am not praying
that You take them out of the world
but that You protect them from the evil one.
¹⁶ They are not of the world,
as I am not of the world.
¹⁷ Sanctify^[e] them by the truth;
Your word is truth.
¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world,
I also have sent them into the world.
¹⁹ I sanctify Myself for them,
so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ I pray not only for these,
but also for those who believe in Me
through their message.
²¹ May they all be one,
as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You.
May they also be one^[f] in Us,
so the world may believe You sent Me.
²² I have given them the glory You have given Me.
May they be one as We are one.
²³ I am in them and You are in Me.
May they be made completely one,
so the world may know You have sent Me
and have loved them as You have loved Me.
²⁴ Father,
I desire those You have given Me
to be with Me where I am.
Then they will see My glory,
which You have given Me
because You loved Me before the world's foundation.

²⁵ Righteous Father!
The world has not known You.
However, I have known You,
and these have known that You sent Me.

²⁶ I made Your name known to them
and will make it known,
so the love You have loved Me with
may be in them and I may be in them.

Footnotes:

- a. [John 17:2](#) Or *people*
- b. [John 17:9](#) Lit *ask* (throughout this passage)
- c. [John 17:11](#) Lit *keep* (throughout this passage)
- d. [John 17:12](#) The one destined for destruction, loss, or perdition
- e. [John 17:17](#) Set apart for special use
- f. [John 17:21](#) Other mss omit *one*

Holman Christian Standard Bible - Study Bible¹

John 17

17:1-26 In His final prayer in this chapter, Jesus gave an account of His earthly mission to the Father who sent Him. He prayed first for Himself ([vv. 1-5](#)), then for His disciples ([vv. 6-19](#)), and finally for all future believers ([vv. 20-26](#)). In His prayer, Jesus adopted the stance of one who has completed His mission ([v. 4](#), cp. [4:34](#)), having been sent by the Father and now preparing to return ([13:1](#); [16:28](#)). His prayer was fulfilled when He cried out from the cross, saying of the mission of redemption and revelation He had come to accomplish: "It is finished" ([19:30](#)).

17:1-5 The first unit in Jesus' prayer is His intercession for Himself.

17:1 Jesus **looked up to heaven**, striking a customary posture in prayer ([Ps 123:1](#); [Mk 7:34](#); [Lk 18:13](#)). On **the hour has come**, see note at [2:4](#). The opening petition, **Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You**, is a claim to deity since the OT affirms that God will not give His glory to another ([Isa 42:8](#); [48:11](#)). On Jesus as the sent Son, see note at [Jn 3:16-18](#).

17:2 God's granting of **authority** to Jesus ([5:27](#)) marks the beginning of a new era ([Isa 9:6-7](#); [Dan 7:13-14](#); see [Mt 11:27](#); [28:18](#)).

17:2-3 **Eternal life** comes from knowing God and Jesus the sent Son ([1:4](#); [5:26](#); [20:31](#)). Knowing God is not confined to intellectual knowledge; it involves living in fellowship with Him. That God is **the only true God** is affirmed in the Shema ([Dt 6:4](#); cp. [Jn 5:44](#); [1Jn 5:20](#)). Jesus, in turn, is the One and Only sent by the Father ([Jn 1:14,18](#); [3:16,18](#)) and the only way to Him ([14:6](#)). The full name **Jesus Christ** is found only here and in [1:17](#), forming a literary inclusion. Note that in these verses Jesus referred to Himself in the third person.

17:4 The reference to Jesus' **work** in the singular harks back to [4:34](#), another inclusion.

17:5 Again, Jesus claimed preexistence ([v. 24](#); [1:1,14](#); [3:13](#); [6:62](#); [8:58](#); [16:28](#)).

17:6-19 The second unit of Jesus' prayer contains His intercession for His disciples, beginning with a rehearsal of His ministry to them ([vv. 6-8](#)). Jesus' prayer for His followers in [verses 9-19](#) includes petitions for their protection ([vv. 11-16](#)) and for their consecration for service in the truth ([vv. 17-19](#)).

17:6 Jesus' revelation of God's **name** included making known the Father's works and words ([1:18](#); [8:19,27](#); [10:38](#); [12:45](#); [14:9-11](#)).

17:7-8 The portrayal of Jesus here is reminiscent of the description of the "prophet like" Moses in [Dt 18:18](#).

17:12 Even Judas's betrayal happened in fulfillment of Scripture. The antecedent passage is probably [Ps 41:9](#) (applied to Jesus in [Jn 13:18](#); see note there). Other Scriptures fulfilled through Judas are [Ps 69:25](#) and [109:8](#) (cited in [Ac 1:20](#)).

¹ Jeremy Royal Howard, ed., *HCSB Study Bible*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2010), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "John 17".

[17:18](#) This verse looks forward to the commission that Jesus assigned His disciples after His resurrection ([20:21](#)).

[17:20-26](#) Jesus did not stop at praying for Himself ([vv. 1-5](#)) and His disciples ([vv. 6-19](#)); His vision transcended the present ([Dt 29:14-15](#)). Jesus was concerned for His followers' unity ([Jn 17:21-23](#)) and love ([v. 26](#)). The vision of a unified people of God was previously expressed in [10:16](#) and [11:52](#). Unity among believers results from the indivisible unity of God ([10:38](#); [14:10-11,20,23](#); [15:4-5](#)). Once unified, believers are able to bear witness to the true identity of Jesus as the One sent by God.

[17:25](#) Jesus addressed God as **Righteous Father**. The OT teaches that God is righteous and just ([Ps 116:5](#); [119:137](#); [Jer 12:1](#)). Though His betrayal, torture, and death were looming, Jesus affirmed the righteousness of God His Father.

[17:26](#) The phrase **I may be in them** is filled with covenantal overtones ([v. 23](#); [14:20](#)). After the giving of the law at Sinai, God came to dwell in the midst of Israel in the tabernacle ([Ex 40:34](#)). As they moved toward the promised land, God frequently assured His people that He was in their midst ([Ex 29:45-46](#); [Dt 7:21](#); [23:14](#)).

The Apologetics Study Bible²

John 17

[17:1-5](#) Isn't this the height of mutual self-serving behavior—the Father and the Son glorifying each other for eternity? There are deities in the religions of the world who behave that way, but here it is crucial to observe that what brings glory to the Godhead is the opportunity of eternal life for anyone who believes ([v. 2](#))—an opportunity no other religion provides.

[17:7-8](#) Did they really know so much and "for certain"? This verse does not deny the many things the disciples still did not understand. But compared to those who had not followed Jesus, it is true that they had "received" His "words." The original text of "with certainty" can also be translated "truly."

[17:9](#) That Jesus was not praying for the world on this specific occasion does not mean that He never prayed for fallen humanity or that we shouldn't pray for them either. Indeed, He was praying for those who would come to faith through the apostles' message, that their unity would be a sign to a lost world that would watch what they do ([v. 23](#)).

[17:12](#) Judas was not an exception to the principle that Jesus would lose none of those God gave Him ([6:39](#); [10:29](#)), for he was doomed from the outset—never truly one of Christ's followers ([6:70-71](#)). Yet even here predestination never overrides free will and human accountability ([Mk 14:20-21](#)). No one Scripture is specifically mentioned, though there are echoes of [Ps 41:9](#) and [109:4-13](#). If Judas had chosen not to betray Jesus, someone else likely would have stepped forward.

[17:21-23](#) Obviously, believers cannot be one with either the Father or the Son in every way the persons of the Godhead are one with each other, for we are not God. On the other hand, the unity among Christians is more than the invisible oneness of all believers; it is something that demonstrates itself in outward, tangible, loving cooperation for powerful evangelistic purposes and results.

² Ted Cabal, ed., *The Apologetics Study Bible: Understanding Why You Believe*, (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 1605-1607.

NLT Life Application Study Bible³

John 17

17:1ff This entire chapter is Jesus' prayer. From it, we learn that the world is a tremendous battleground where the forces under Satan's power and those under God's authority are at war. Satan and his forces are motivated by bitter hatred for Christ and his forces. Jesus prayed for his disciples, including those of us who follow him today. He prayed that God would keep his chosen believers safe from Satan's power, setting them apart and making them pure and holy, uniting them through his truth.

17:3 How do we get eternal life? Jesus tells us clearly here—by knowing God the Father himself through his Son, Jesus Christ. Eternal life requires entering into a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. When we admit our sin and turn away from it, Christ's love lives in us by the Holy Spirit.

17:5 Before Jesus came to earth, he was one with God. At this point, when his mission on earth was almost finished, Jesus was asking his Father to restore him to his original place of honor and authority. Jesus' resurrection and ascension—and Stephen's dying exclamation ([Acts 7:56](#))—attest that Jesus did return to his exalted position at the right hand of God.

17:10 What did Jesus mean when he said "they bring me glory"? God's glory is the revelation of his character and presence. The lives of Jesus' disciples reveal his character, and he is present to the world through them. Does your life reveal Jesus' character and presence?

17:11 Jesus was asking that the disciples be united in harmony and love as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united—the strongest of all unions. (See the notes on [17:21-23](#).)

17:12 Judas was "the one headed for destruction," who was lost because he betrayed Jesus and never sought forgiveness (see [Psalm 41:9](#)).

17:13 Joy is a common theme in Christ's teachings—he wants us to be joyful (see [15:11](#); [16:24](#)). The key to immeasurable joy is living in intimate contact with Christ, the source of all joy. When we do, we will experience God's special care and protection and see the victory God brings even when defeat seems certain.

17:14 The world hates Christians because Christians' values differ from the world's. Because Christ's followers don't cooperate with the world by joining in their sin, they are living accusations against the world's immorality. The world follows Satan's agenda, and Satan is the avowed enemy of Jesus and his people.

17:17 A follower of Christ becomes pure and holy through believing and obeying the Word of God ([Hebrews 4:12](#)). He or she has already accepted forgiveness through Christ's sacrificial death ([Hebrews 7:26, 27](#)). But daily application of God's Word has a purifying effect on our minds and hearts. Scripture points out sin, motivates us to confess, renews our relationship with Christ, and guides us back to the right path.

³, *Life Application Study Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1988), *WORDsearch CROSS e-book*, 1790-1791.

17:18 Jesus didn't ask God to take believers *out* of the world but instead to use them *in* the world. Because Jesus sends us into the world, we should not try to escape from the world, nor should we avoid all relationships with non-Christians. We are called to be salt and light ([Matthew 5:13-16](#)), and we are to do the work that God sent us to do.

17:20 Jesus prayed for all who would follow him, including you and others you know. He prayed for unity ([17:11](#)), protection from the evil one ([17:15](#)), and holiness ([17:17](#)). Knowing that Jesus prayed for us should give us confidence as we work for his Kingdom.

17:21-23 Jesus' great desire for his disciples was that they would become one. He wanted them unified as a powerful witness to the reality of God's love. Are you helping to unify the body of Christ, the church? You can pray for other Christians, avoid gossip, build others up, work together in humility, give your time and money, exalt Christ, and refuse to get sidetracked arguing over divisive matters.

17:21-23 Jesus prayed for unity among believers based on the believers' unity with him and the Father. Christians can know unity among themselves if they are living in union with God. For example, each branch living in union with the vine is united with all other branches doing the same.