

that moment and for us (all the believers who would come present in the room).

My goal this morning in the next 25 minutes is to help us not just read this prayer but experience it and in many ways pray through it. So we'll do that by looking at each of the three sections of it. I'll read it and make some comments on it. Then we'll have a quiet space for you to read back through it on your own, catch reflection points and talk to the Lord.

### **17:1-5 – Glory / Eternal Life / Knowing the one true God**

Glorify your son so that son will glorify Father – Glorify - share His presence - Clothe in splendor – the splendor that only exists in the presence of God the Father

[Glory Illus: Exodus 19:16-18, Revelation 1:12-17, 4:8-11](#)

This Glory is the presence of God that Jesus had known from before His incarnation and the presence that He no doubt longed for – the presence that He would invite us into – that He would make available to us through His life/death/resurrection. The hope was for Him to walk into the suffering of the cross – separation from the Father - and then to walk out the other side into Glory – be clothed in splendor in the full on presence of God. That's the glory He was longing for and that's the Glory that He has worked/suffered for and entered into! That Glory is eternal life – it is knowing the only true

## 17:6-19 God revealed / Unity / Joy / Sent

**God revealed** - Jesus **revealed** the Father to His disciples and His disciples believed the father sent Him. Jesus expresses that... **in the** disciples' **faith** they bring glory to God. Their faith proclaims the goodness and power of the one true God.

**Unity needed** - **Jesus prays for their protection** – revealing His affection for them and His commitment to them. The protection at the front of His mind is the protection of their **unity** – because He knows that their unity is of utmost importance for their connection to Jesus and the power of the message they proclaim so He prays for their unity.

**Illus:** Following Jesus was never intended to be an individual pursuit. We are in this pursuit with others; we need others. I do not grow as much in Christ if not for

- the love and accountability of my wife
- the blessing of my children,
- encouragement from so many of you,
- the lived out example from so many of you: examples of commitment to prayer, Godly trust in difficult circumstances, bold evangelism, creative love of neighbor, sacrificial service for others, generous giving, hospitality... the list goes on.

I grow in Christ through having shared life and unity with you all. And do you know **what is the greatest threat to my growth in Christ?** When my relationship with my wife, my kids, or one of you gets fractured. When one of those relationships get fractured – what grows? Bitterness

disciples.

**Disciples sent** - Lastly He acknowledges and therefore reminds them that they are not of this world – **they have been set apart** (sanctified) as **Good news proclaimers – Jesus love sharers**. They are a part for this honorable work in the same way that Jesus was a part in His mission of incarnation – a mission that would bring eternal life to all those who put faith in Him. Now the disciples are set a part for the same kind of mission. It involves suffering and being looked upon as a fool by the world but it is fueled by the love of God and ends in eternal life!

#### **Time to read and reflect**

- Imagine what it was like for the disciples to walk with Jesus in and day out for much of three years.
- Reflect on their life of response after He ascended into heaven. They spent their life proclaiming Him - facing persecution and even execution.

And God used these 11 men to spark an incredible spread of the Gospel message. By the end of their lives the message had made its way throughout much of the known world.

#### **17:20-26 Unity / Love / Presence**

He prays for us. 2000 years ago, He prayed for us. He prayed that we would be one – Not just that we would get along or tolerate each other – but that we would be one in the same way that the Father and the Son are one – in fact that we would be part of/share in the unity of the

church) – not I (individually) are united as one to become the bride of Christ – united in eternal loving relationship with Trinity.

Invitation into song of response.

I pray that this reality would expose the danger and darkness **in our disunity** and the power and purity of our commonality of one **faith, one Lord, one Spirit.**

- Thrive
- Questions/comments/prayer request – email us

He longs for us (us!) to experience the love of God – the very love that He the son experiences from God the Father. A love that causes Him to do something like... incarnation, death, and resurrection for the proclamation and the generous sharing of that love. He wants us to know and share the love of the Father!

He longs for us to be with Him to share in and experience Glory – the full on glory of God – the glory that God lovingly shares with His people – with His children.

He ends by reminding us that He has made the Father known to us through His words – and has therefore made His love for us known to us and promises His presence with us.

### **Time to read and reflect**

- Imagine the unity and love of the Triune God. Imagine sharing in that unity and love... not just you with Trinity, but you with all your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Is a spiritual brother's/sister's unity with you any less deserved than your unity with Christ? – explain...