

Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples

John 17:1-26

Introduction:

- A. Jesus prayed often and taught his disciples to pray often.
- B. Jesus prayed for his disciples in our text, making three great petitions:

Discussion:

I. That They May Be *Kept* (v. 15)

- A. Kept from the "evil one" as a persecutor. (2 Pet. 5:8).
 - 1. Verbal persecution. (Mt. 5:11)
 - 2. Social persecution. (Luke 6:22)
 - 3. Physical persecution. (Acts 8:1-4)
- B. Kept from the "evil one" as a pretender. (Rev. 12:9).
 - 1. Sin pretends to be good and innocent. (Heb. 3:13; cf. Rom. 7:13).
 - 2. Satan's ministers pretend to be God's ministers. (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
 - 3. Satan's worker may think he is God's worker. (John 16:2).

II. That They May Be *Sanctified*. (v. 17)

- A. Set apart (sanctified) in the world. (v. 18, cf. Rom. 12:2).
 - 1. Disciples still have work to do in world. (v. 15; cf. Phil. 2:15).
 - 2. Disciples still must not be of the world. (v. 14; John 15:19).
- B. Set apart (sanctified) in the church. (Ekklesia means "called out assembly").
 - 1. Those in N.T. churches were sanctified ones (saints). (I Cor. 1:1; 14:33).
 - 2. Those in N.T. church were saved -- set apart from lost. (Acts 2:47)

III. That They May Be *United*. (v. 21-23).

- A. United in the Father and the Son. ("one in us").
 - 1. United as Father as Son are united. (v. 11).
 - 2. United as by abiding in the other. (v. 21; cf. John 15:4-8).
- B. United as result of being kept, sanctified and perfected.
 - 1. "keep ... that they may be one as We are". (v. 11).
 - 2. "sanctified ... believe... that they may be one". (vs. 17-21).
 - 3. "The glory (honor) You gave Me I have given that they may be one." (v. 22). - Glory to do God's work on earth. (vs. 1-5)
 - 4. "Made perfect (or perfected) in one". (v.21).

Conclusion:

- A. We have a part in the answer of this prayer.
 - 1. Must keep selves in love of God (Jude 21)
 - 2. Must keep selves unspotted from world (James 1:27)
 - 3. Must keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3).
- B. We cannot help answer this prayer by a ecumenicalism.
- C. We must realize the role that God's word has in the answer to this prayer (vv. 6,17)