

“Sent In Unity To Testify To God’s Love!”

John 17:17-26

Verse 17: “Sanctify them by Your Truth! Your Word Is Truth!”

Jesus’ Next Appeal In His Prayer To His Father On Behalf Of His Followers
& His Future Followers Through The Apostle’s Witness Is For Our Sanctification!

He Prayed That We Would Be Made Holy Through
The Study Of His Words & His Will For Our Lives!

Jesus also clearly defines our role on His behalf in the world today:

Verse 18: “As You Sent Me into the world, I Also Have Sent Them into the world!”

We Are To Go Into The World & Do Good Deeds In His Name!

We Are To Go Into The World & Give Our Personal Testimony’s To His Grace, Love, & Mercy!

We Are To Go Into The World & Speak His Sanctifying Words To Others!

Verse 19: “And for their sakes I Sanctify Myself (Truth), that They Also May Be Sanctified By The Truth!”

Jesus Now Prays That His Sanctifying Work On The Cross

Will By His Death Make Us All Holy By His Perfect Righteousness!

Notice A Play On “Word” & “Truth” Exists

*“In the beginning was the Word, & the Word Was With God, & the Word Was God.
He Was In The Beginning With God.”* **John 1:1-2**

“I AM the Way, the Truth, & the Life. No one comes to the Father Except Through Me.” **John 14:6**

Notice A Play On “Word” & “Truth” Exists

“Sanctify Them By Your Truth! Your Word Is Truth!” **John 17:17**

“I Sanctify Myself (Truth), That They Also May Be Sanctified By The Truth” **John 17:19**

**Verses 20 – 21: “I Do Not Pray For These Alone, but also for Those Who Will Believe In Me Through
Their Word; that They All May Be One, as You Father, Are In Me, & I In You; that They Also May Be
One In Us, that the world may believe that You Sent Me!”**

Jesus Now Prays For Those Who Will Come To Believe In Him
Through The Deeds, Testimonies, & Teaching Of Us His Followers!

However, This Seems To Be In Contrast To His Earlier Remarks

Concerning Who He Was Praying For!

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for Those Whom You Have Given Me, for they are Yours.”

John 17:9

“I Do Not Pray For These Alone, but also for Those Who Will Believe In Me Through Their Word.”

John 17:20

Q: “What Has Changed From The Beginning To The End Of Jesus’ Prayer?”

A: We Have Been Sanctified, Unified, & Sent Into The World In Place Of Jesus!

*“As You Sent Me into the world, I Also Have Sent Them into the world! “And for their sakes I Sanctify
Myself (Truth), that They Also May Be Sanctified By The Truth!” ... “that They All May Be One, as You
Father, Are In Me, & I In You; that They Also May Be One In Us, that the world may believe that You
Sent Me!”* **John 17:18-19 & 21**

So, Let Me Ask Myself & All Of You A Question This Morning!

Q: “Am I, Are You Truly Jesus’ Sanctified, Unified, & Obedient Follower(s)?”

Q: “What Should A Group Of True Followers Of Jesus Christ, His Church, Look Like Today?”

**Q: “What Are The Outward Testifying Signs To Our Community, & To Our World Today,
That CCN Is Abiding In Unity With God & One Another?”**

A: A Healthy Christ-Centered Church Is A Place Where People Are:

- 1) Transformed By The Word Of God!
- 2) Sanctified - Made Holy By The Indwelling Presence Of The Holy Spirit In Their Lives!
- 3) Demonstrating Love For Another & Where Forgiveness Is Asked For & Received By All!
- 4) Lifting Up Christ's Name & The Holy Spirit Abides With His People In Unity!
- 5) Witnessing To Christ's Power & Glory – Is Displayed By Supernatural Miracles & Signs!
- 6) Helping To Transform The Community & People By Christ's Love & Grace!
- 7) Not Looking Inward, But Rather Looking Outward To The Needs Of The World Around Them!

Q: “Does My Life Testify To These Outward Signs Of God's Abiding Presence?”

Q: “Does CCN Display These Outward Signs Of God's Abiding Presence?”

Verses 22 – 23: “And the **Glory Which You Gave Me I Have Given Them, that They May Be One Just As We Are One: I In Them, & You In Me; that They May Be Made Perfect In One, that the world may know that You Have Sent Me, & Have Loved Them As You Have Loved Me!**”

Jesus Now Prays To The Father That When His Work On The Cross Is Over,
That His Followers Will Exhibit God's Glory In Their Lives To All Those Around Them!

This Glory Will Be An Outward Sign Of The Unity Of All Believers!

This Glory Will Be An Outward Sign Of God's Love For Us & Our Love For One Another!

Verse 24: “**Father, I desire that They Also Whom You Gave Me May Be With Me Where I Am, that they may behold My Glory Which You Have Given Me; for You Loved Me before the foundation of the world.**”

Recall what Jesus said a little earlier that same evening at the table in the Upper Room!

“**Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me! In My Father's House are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again & receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also!**”

John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

Jesus Continues Praying To The Father That When His Work On The Cross Is Over,
That His Followers Will Be With Him In Heaven Forever!

There They Will Experience The Glory Of God In All Of His Fullness!

The Glory Described Here By Jesus In His Prayer

Is The Glory He Had With His Father Before The Creation Of The World,

The Glory He Had From All Eternity!

This Glory Will Be Characterized By The Perfect

Unity & Love Of The Triune God With Us, Their People!

Verses 25 – 26: “**O Righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; & these have known that You Sent Me. And I have declared to them Your Name, & will declare It (Your Name), that the Love With Which You Loved Me May Be In Them, & I In Them.**”

Jesus Finishes His Final Prayer Asking His Follower's
To Love God & One Another In Perfect Unity!

1) That The World Might Truly Know That Jesus Is Indeed
The Only Son Of God, Just As He Claimed To Be While He Was On Earth!

2) That Those Who Do Not Believe In Him, May Believe,
& Experience His Life Transforming Unconditional, Grace, Love, & Mercy!

Q: “Why Are These Two Truths Of Love & Unity So Important In The World Today?”

A: Because The Claim Of Those

Who Do Not Believe In Christ In This World,

Is That Christians Are Nothing But Hypocrites,

& That We Cannot Even Live Together In Real Love & Unity!

Therefore, The World Concludes That Jesus Christ Could Not Have Been God,
Because If He Truly Were God, He Would Keep His Followers
Together In Love & Unity With Him & With One Another!

Q: "So How Do We Win Those Who Do Not Believe In Christ?"

A: We Lead Truly Transformed Lives Of Transparency:

- 1) We Obey God, & Not Our Own Desires!**
- 2) We Desire To Do His Will, & Not Our Own!**
- 3) We Live In Love & Unity With God!**
- 4) We Forgive One Another From The Heart!**
- 5) We Work Together In Service To Others!**

**Isn't It Just Unbelievable! Isn't It Just Like Our God!
That The Glory Of The King Of Kings Resides Within Us,
Because Of His Never-Ending Perfect Love For All Of Us!**

**A Love He Wants To Show Through Us
In Our Perfect Love & Unity With One Another
As We Share That Perfect Love With Those
Who Have Never Known God's Love For Them!**

Let Me Ask You Just Two Final Questions

Q: "Is There Any Way You Could Say No To Such An Unbelievable & Unconditional Love?"

**Q: "Is There Any Way You Could Say No To Being Sent In Unity
To Testify To God's Great Love To All Those Around You?"**

"Torn In Two"

By Glad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-iF72wlm3w>

(Slide 30)

Suppose there was a Man
Who would lay down His life on a tree
So that you could live forever
Suppose that Man
In return your life would require
So that you could live forever

(Slide 31)

He's calling now
Why don't you make the vow
His Word is true
He's proved His love for you

(Slide 32)

When He was
Torn into two for the world to see
His body was broken upon the tree
God hath forsaken Him, so have we
His body was broken to make us free

(Slide 32)

Suppose there was a Man
Who would hang like a curtain suspended
So that you could know His Presence
Suppose that man
Through His death became the only Door
So that you could know His Presence

(Slide 34)

He's calling now
Why don't you make the vow
His word is true
He's proved His love for you

(Slide 35)

When He was
Torn into two for the world to see
His Body was broken upon the tree
God hath forsaken Him, so have we
His Body was broken upon the tree

(Slide 36)

Covenants are made
And Covenants are broken
But the Ever Living One
Sent the Greatest Token
Of His Love for us in Jesus

(Slide 37)

When He was
Torn into two for the world to see
His Body was broken
His Body was broken
God hath forsaken Him, so have we
His Body was broken to make us free
His Body was broken ... Oh, Oh
His Body was broken to make us free