

# **The Longest Prayer**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 17.
- B. This is the longest prayer of the Lord Jesus recorded.
- C. It is the longest point of time with regard to the scope that it covers.

## II. He prays for Himself that He may be glorified.

- A. Christ asks to be glorified in different ways.
  - 1. By means of the cross.
    - a. To be glorified means to manifest certain riches.
    - b. The cross reveals Jesus' lordship and sovereignty. (Philippians 2)
    - c. Jesus triumphs over spiritual powers through the cross.
    - d. This will give eternal life to those who seek Him. Eternal life is the most exciting thing there is.
    - e. The cross reveals Jesus as Savior.
  - 2. By returning to heaven.
    - a. This reveals Jesus' creative glory.
    - b. Before He came, He was creator.

## III. He prays for the disciples that they may be protected.

- A. He prays because they belong to Him.
  - 1. The disciples are a gift from the Father to Jesus, and they are precious to Him.
  - 2. Jesus prays for the ignorance of the world elsewhere at the cross.
  - 3. Jesus is always concerned for His disciples. (Hebrews 7:27)
- B. He prays that they might be kept from the devil and apostasy.
  - 1. Jesus' name stands for all God's resources.
  - 2. We keep people in a consciousness that God must keep them.

3. Judas was not kept because he retained his independence against God, which is deadly.
4. They were to be kept in Jesus' joy and from the world's enmity.
5. The devil wants to keep us from Scripture.
6. Jesus prays that the disciples will be kept in the world and not be taken from it.
7. The world is dangerous, but the only safeguard is the provision of the Lord's presence.

C. He prays that they may be sanctified.

1. To be sanctified means to put to the proper use.
2. God wants to use man as His instrument.
3. We are sanctified by the cross.

IV. He prays for the church that they may be unified.

A. Its essential unity.

1. Jesus prays that the church would be one in resting in the apostolic faith. The Jesus we must worship is the Jesus of the disciples.
2. The life of the Son in believers unites them.

B. It is ultimate destiny. The Lord promises that He will ultimately be with the church.

C. It is present intimacy. Love is the great theme of God.

**Application questions:**

1. What does Jesus teach us about Himself in this passage?

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2. What role does prayer have in spiritual warfare in this passage? Why is it important to be aware of spiritual powers against us?

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3. How would you respond to someone that the church could never be one unless it is under one denomination or church government? Explain.

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