

## **Digging Deeper: John 17:20–26 - Jesus Prays for All Believers (Unity)**

by Robert Lee (Elder at MACC)

### **Day 1:** Pray. Read John 17:20–21.

The prayer that Jesus prayed for all believers succeeds the prayer he prayed for his disciples and precedes his arrest. Jesus had just spoken about the mission and sanctification of his followers and was confident that they would spread the Gospel. In this prayer, Jesus prayed for those who will believe as a result. Take comfort in knowing all believers of Jesus as Christ are one with him just as he is one with the Father. If you are not yet a believer, we encourage you to confess your sins to God to begin the process of salvation while there is time.

### **Day 2:** Pray. Read John 17:22.

What is this “glory” that Jesus speaks of in verse 22? The glory of the Father and that of the Son are intricately connected. The sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross glorifies God which leads to eternal life for believers of Jesus. Jesus emphasizes two things in this verse, (1) the importance of unity among his followers, and (2) that the standard provided for us as the perfect example is the unity of the Father and the Son.

### **Day 3:** Pray. Read John 17:23.

There are two indwellings in this verse: (1) Jesus in his followers and (2) the Father in the Son. It is because the latter is a reality that the former can take place. The sum of these two indwellings, therefore, is considered, “complete unity.” In this verse, the emphasis on unity is presented not only with the mission of Jesus but also with God’s love for people and for Christ.

### **Day 4:** Pray. Read John 17:24

In verse 24, it is the will of Jesus to be with his followers and to reveal to us his glory. This is the Christian’s greatest blessing. The meaning of this prayer refers either to Jesus’ eternal splendor (1 John 3:2) or that in the life to come, we might fully appreciate the glory of his lowly service (Ephesians 2:7). Either way, what a blessing of hope it is to even consider being with Jesus when his glory is revealed!

### **Day 5:** Pray. Read John 17:25.

“Righteous Father” is a form of address found only here in the New Testament (“Holy Father” is found in verse 11). In this verse, Jesus proclaims that although the world knew that the Father sent the Son, they did not know God directly nor personally. So, Jesus came to connect (unify) us with the Father.

**Day 6:** Pray. Read John 17:26.

To recognize God in Christ's mission is a great advance over anything the world can ever know. If you have not done so, make today the day that you give your life over to Jesus. If you are already a follower of Jesus, make today the day you help another get to know him better by sharing the gospel.