



As we continue to look at Jesus prayer in John 17 we will look at several major themes. The truth, being set apart, being in the world, and salvation.

John 17:14-19 ¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹For their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

¹⁴I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

The “word” is a major theme in John’s gospel. Jesus is introduced as The Word in John 1. As the Word who “dwelt among us” He was the “exact representation” of God in the world. More specifically, here Jesus is referring to the things He had told the disciples. He had given them “the words the Father has given me to speak.” He has in mind here everything He had taught the disciples while He was with them.

Jesus had given the disciples the word of God, but the world hated them. The “world” refers to the system of evil in which we live. The “world” led by Satan is anti - God by definition.

Not only was Jesus not of the world but He was the Light of the world. As the light He revealed the sin of the world. The “world” does not like is sin exposed, it prefers the darkness.

The disciples because they belonged to Jesus were also not of the world, and therefor the world hated them as well.

¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Jesus makes another request of the Father in His prayer for His disciples. In light of the fact that they were hated

by the world (they would be persecuted and killed), He requested that they would not be removed from the world but kept from the “evil one” while they were in it.

Jesus had told them that He was going away and they had of course wanted to go away with Him. But it was not yet their time. They were going to remain in the world for a time. To escape the hatred of the world would have been far easier, but they had a mission to complete first.

Earlier Jesus had told Peter (Luke 22) that Satan had requested to sift Peter (Satan wanted to make Peter fail), but Jesus had prayed for Peter so that He would not fail. Jesus is doing that now for all those who believe in Him. Jesus is praying that while they are in the hateful world that they would not fail.

¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

To sanctify means to set apart. Sanctification is the process by which the believer is “set apart,” removed, from sin. The tool that God uses to remove sin from the believers life is His word. Scripture is the truth. The scripture tells us what sin is. It reveals our sin to us and gives us the right way to live.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Scripture is also the tool that God uses in salvation. ***“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly My disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*** John 8:31-32

By believing the word of God about Christ the disciples were set apart from sin in salvation. We call that Justification. We are declared not guilty before God. But even though we have a legal standing of not guilty we still have our sin nature and therefore are still prone to sin while in this world. As a Christian your life should be marked by sanctification. The direction of your life should

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be toward Holiness and away from sin.

For the true believer then, the Truth (God's word) sets you free. You are no longer a slave to sin and have been declared not guilty before God. You are also sanctified by the truth of God's word as it reveals more and more of your sin to you and instructs you in the path of righteousness.

God's word is essential to the Christian life. It is by knowing God's word that enables the believer to live the life that God wants them to live.

Truth is essential to freedom as well. There are a myriad of ways that people are enslaved to sin. Ignoring, or even claiming that sin is not sin, does nothing to help the person enslaved to that sin.

Satan is a deceiver and the father of lies. He likes nothing more than to see people believe a lie and become enslaved. Telling someone the truth is the most loving thing you can do for someone caught in a lie. Of course, how you tell them matters, but leaving someone enslaved without attempting to tell them the truth is not loving them.

18 As You sent Me into the world, I also sent them into the world.

Jesus had come into the world as the Light. He was the witness to the world of who God was. He was a witness to the truth about God and revealed the sinfulness of the world.

The disciples, and all believers, are sent into the world as well. The disciples were to give witness to, to testify, about Jesus. They were to be witnesses in the world about the truth about Jesus. The truth that sets people free.

19 For their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

We do not often think about sanctification when it comes to Jesus. He is perfect, He had no sin. But remember that to sanctify is to set apart. Jesus was set apart as well. Not from sin (He was sinless), but He was set apart by God for a mission. He was set apart to righteousness. He fulfilled the will of God perfectly. And with that He was set apart to the cross. It was at the cross that He completed His mission ("it is finished"). It was at the cross that He was set apart to pay the penalty for sin.

It was His payment of the penalty of sin for all who believe that enables believers to be Justified – declared not guilty.

Jesus went to the cross willingly, "I sanctify Myself," so that believers may be sanctified as well. It was His being set apart that enables us to be set apart from sin.

That Jesus is praying for His disciples in this way just hours before He is arrested and crucified is truly amazing. He was about to die yet is interceding for His own.

It should encourage you and strengthen you to know that He is still interceding for you right now. His prayer for all believers is the same. That they would be set apart, saved, and separated from sin. That as they are witnesses in this world they would be kept from the evil one. He will not loose any that are His. "No one is able to pluck them out of the Father's hand."

Knowing this should change how we live.

Colossians 3:8-10 ⁸"But now you also, lay them all aside: wrath, anger, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you put off the old man with its evil practices, ¹⁰and have put on the new man who is being renewed to a full knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—"

Bible Studies:

7:00 am Tuesdays: Bible Study – Governor's Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

8:00 pm Wednesday: Legislator Only Bible Study – Red Rosa

