

# Because You Love Me, John 17.20-26

## Introduction, vv20-21<sup>1</sup>

- Jesus is praying for the church before it even comes into existence.
- **Question:** what are we praying for by faith before it comes into existence?
- **Question:** what is “one-ness”?
- **Question:** what enables this “one-ness”?<sup>2</sup>
- **Question:** what is God’s intended outcome of this “one-ness”?<sup>3</sup>
  - The vision of a unified people of God was expressed earlier in John’s Gospel in Jn 10:16 (“one flock and one shepherd,” an allusion to Ezek. 34:23; 37:24) and Jn 11:52 (“gathering of the scattered children of God into one”).

## 1. The Glory We’ve Been Given, vv22-23

### A. Glory

- **Question:** what is the glory that Jesus has been given?<sup>4</sup>
- **Question:** what is the glory that we have been given?

### B. One<sup>5</sup>

- A oneness of a scattered people completed by his death, Jn 11.52, Jn 13.35.
- **Question:** in what is this one-ness rooted?

### C. The world will know

- **Question:** in what ways do you agree or disagree with this statement?
  - *“Outreach to unbelievers is rooted in the community of believers as a whole rather than being the isolated enterprise of individuals who have the gift of evangelism.”*

### D. Love<sup>6</sup>

- **Question:** there are no commands here, only requests. But thinking about the rest of the New Testament, what are the commands surrounding unity and love?
- **Question:** what do you learn here about the relationships between Father, Son and us?

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<sup>1</sup> The word “prayer” is not in the Greek, but simply “asking”.

<sup>2</sup> See, Jn 13.34-35; 14.15-20; Jn 15; 1 Cor 12.12-13

<sup>3</sup> See, Jn 13.34-35, 1 Jn 4.14

<sup>4</sup> See, Jn 15:10; 17:23, 26; Jn 2:11; 11:4; Jn 8:5, 24, 50, 54; Heb 2:9-10

<sup>5</sup> Literally, “...that they may be perfected into one,”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus/John keep re-describing the nature of the relationships between Father, Son, believers: John 14.10-11, 20, 23; 17.21, 23.

## 2. The Glory We Will See, vv24<sup>7</sup>

### A. Glory

- "The ultimate goal for the disciples is not participation in the mission to which Jesus called them, vital though that is, but to see the glory of their exalted Redeemer in the presence of the Father." Kruse, Colin G. Tyndale NTC
- "See" (theorosin): observe - see Christ as he really is, not in (voluntary) humiliation of human form (as most strongly demonstrated in washing their feet).
- Looks like this is not so much a vision for individual disciples, but the church as a whole, post-parousia. It is then that we will behold and participate fully in his glory (1 Jn 3.2).

### B. Pre-existence

- **Question:** which are your favourite scriptures to share with people about the deity of Christ?

## 3. The Love We Will Experience, vv25-26

### A. Righteous Father<sup>8</sup>

- Only reference to "righteous" for God<sup>9</sup> in the New Testament.<sup>10</sup>
- Jesus himself is referred to as 'the Righteous One' (Acts 7:52; 22:14; 1 John 2:1).
- **Question:** what does it mean to you that God is "righteous"?

### B. Knowledge

- Literally, "...although the world has not known you".
- Ongoing presence of Jesus among his people ('I myself may be in/among them') is the unique feature of the Christian community (cf. Matt. 18:20; 1 Cor. 14:24–25).
- **Question:** what does it mean to you that Christ is "among/in" your church community?

### D. Love

- Literally, "...the love with which you have loved me".<sup>11</sup>
- Not just "I am with you" Matt 28.20, but "I am in you".

## Conclusion

- The prayer is over and Jesus is ready for the final events of his earthly life which are about to unfold rapidly. His disciples are not ready, but they are as ready as he could make them, and they have been prayed for, in faith, and they will come through eventually.

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<sup>7</sup> See, Jn 14.2-3

<sup>8</sup> "Righteous Father" and "Holy Father" (v11) unique.

<sup>9</sup> God is righteous and just (e.g., Ps. 116:5; 119:137; Jer. 12:1).

<sup>10</sup> God is frequently described as righteous/just in his person (1 John 2:29; 3:7), his ways (Rev. 15:3), his judgments (2 Thess. 1:5–6; Rev. 16:5, 7; 19:2) and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

<sup>11</sup> Connects with Spirit's work, eg, in Jn 16:12–15, 25, so the name is revealed and love is enjoyed.