

# Jesus' High Priestly Prayer – Part 4

Sermon 81 in the Matthew Series (Excursion into John's Gospel – 4)

## John 17:17-26

### I. Sanctify them in the Truth v. 17-19

**1 Peter 2:9** -- But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people; that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

**Heb 12:14** – Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one shall see the Lord:

#### A. What Holiness is Not

#### B. Holiness is Separation

1. v. 14 -- The world hates us, because we are not of the world, just like it hated Christ because He was not of the world.
2. v. 15 – Our goal is separation from the world, not escape from the world.
3. v. 15 – We are still in the world, and we need protection from sin and Satan.
4. v. 16 -- We are not of the world – and Christ is not of the world.
5. v. 17 – Sanctify them.

#### C. Sanctify Them

“Sanctify: In the context of verse 19

“I set myself apart for service to God”. (consecrate)

The word Greek word “sanctify” has a broad semantic range.

Putting 17, 18 and 19 together we can see sanctify means *dedicate them to thy service*, like I have been dedicated to your service.

### II. Christ Prays for Us v. 20.

#### A. This Passage is Remarkable in its Context.

Christ is just hours away from the cross.

He is just moments away from the Garden of Gethsemane.

## B. This Passage is Remarkable in its Exclusivity.

He did not pray for the world (as in every individual) indiscriminately, with a prayer that would not be answered because of man's rejection.

Christ's prayer in John 17 would be answered in its entirety.

His prayer is as far reaching as His death.

He prays for those who will come to Him by faith.

## C. This Passage is Remarkable in its Phraseology.

Christ even spoke about the way those He was praying for would become His own people. They would believe.

It is right to call Christians "believers" for that is what we are.

## III. Christ's prayer for Unity v. 21-26

### A. His Requests v. 21

1. That they may be one with one another.
2. That they might be one with the Father and the Son
3. That the world might believe that the Father sent the Son.

### B. The Means to bring about this Unity. v. 22-23

### C. The Final Summation of the Prayer. v. 24-26

In Closing -- He reiterates what he has said

**John 10:16** -- And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

No longer would there be a division between Jew and Gentile.

Christ came to save a people from every nation, tribe, tongue and kindred and unite them with the believing Jews into the One True Universal Church.