**In the Upper Room (8) – That They All May Be One**

*John 17*

**Introduction**

1. The denominational world is inherently one of division, but the suggestion is that such is inconsequential. That God is accepting of division, doctrinally and practically.
2. **Even in the Lord’s church, strange sounds of “unity in diversity” are heard. That there is a distinction between gospel and doctrine, and we must be unified in the former, while division in the latter is acceptable.**
3. However, Jesus prayed to God on behalf of all who would believe in Him that they would all be one **(cf. John 17:20-21).**
4. **John 17** records Jesus’ prayer at the end of the upper room discourse which emphasizes God’s will for unity, and what exactly that unity is.
5. Jesus’ Prayer **(John 17)**
6. For Himself **(vv. 1-5)**
   1. **(vv. 1-2)** – Intertwined glorification between the Father and Jesus in the execution of God’s will to bring salvation to the world.
      1. Father not glorified without the Son being glorified – and vice versa **(v. 4-5)**.
      2. **Authority – given by God – for salvation – death on the cross.**
         1. *Execution of this authority to salvation in His death – brings glory to Himself, and God 🡪*
         2. **13:31-32** – After Judas sent out to betray Jesus (That which was already in his heart to do).
         3. **JESUS GLORIFIED – in fully surrendering to God’s will; GOD GLORIFIED – in Jesus’ fully surrendering to His will.**
   2. **(vv. 3-4)** – Jesus’ redemptive work was in part to reveal the Father to the world **(cf. 14:6).**
      1. The redemptive work is completed in His death on the cross. (*Speaks as if it had already been accomplished, for things have been set in motion, and it is only a matter of time.)*
      2. **(v. 5)** – The cross was of glory, but even more glory revealed in His triumph over death, and ASCENSION TO THE FATHER.
   3. **Thus, glory comes to the Son as He submits to the Father’s will, and glory comes to the Father as the Son submits to His will.**
7. For The Apostles **(vv. 6-19)**
   1. **(vv. 6-8)** – Jesus manifested the Father to the apostles, and the apostles have believed and obeyed.
      1. **16:29-30** – Expressed an understanding to a degree.
      2. (**v. 8)** – Jesus gave them that which He received from God, and they believed that God sent Him **– 14:10-11.**
   2. **(vv. 9-10)** – These Jesus prays for, because they would be His agents of salvation in the world.
      1. They are both the Father’s and the Son’s because of the nature of their office.
      2. **They would bear the name of the Father, the word of Christ to the world – such would glorify Jesus, and as such, God.**
   3. **(vv. 11-13)** – Jesus speaks as though He had already left them, because it is certain.
      1. **(vv. 11-12)** – Jesus is leaving, and will no longer be able to protect them spiritually as He had before.
         1. **God would now protect them through His word** – work of the HS – ***“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you” (14:18)*** – through the Helper.
            1. **NOTE: This would be to the end of ONENESS with each other (apostles), as God and Jesus are together.**
            2. ***“that they may be one as We are”***
         2. **This requires the compliance of the disciples** (**cf. 14:15** – keep commandments) – such is illustrated in Judas (***He was not kept, because he refused to be kep***t.).
      2. **(v. 13)** – Jesus is leaving, but speaks this prayer in their hearing that they may have His joy fulfilled in them.
         1. This can only happen if they are obedient to His word.
         2. **Such joy is the love enjoyed from the Father and Son – cf. 15:9-11.**
   4. **(vv. 14-18)** – Apostles sent into the world, but not of the world because of their relationship to God’s word.
      1. Sent into the world to testify of Jesus – **15:26-27.**
      2. Hated by world for bearing Jesus’ word – **15:20-21**.
      3. **(v. 15-17)** – Jesus’ main concern is for their protection SPIRITUALLY – *they will be set apart (sanctified) from the world (sin) by the word.*
      4. **(v. 18)** – In this way they are identified closely with Jesus. (God sent Jesus; Jesus sent apostles) (Thus, identified with God.) (ONENESS)
   5. **(v. 19)** – For these things to be accomplished, Jesus must sanctify Himself to the redemptive work given Him by God.
      1. **For the disciples to be SANCTIFIED for the work which they must do (ambassadors of Christ), Christ must SANCTIFY Himself to the work which He must do (sacrifice for sins).**
      2. **Cf. 13:8** – Unless He washes them, they have no part with Him. (Not even in the apostolic ministry of bearing His name, thus the Father’s name.)
   6. **They are sent into the world as ambassadors of Christ, messengers of God’s will.**
      1. They are kept by the word of truth.
      2. They are set apart from the world by the word of truth.
      3. **They are ONE TOGETHER as God keeps them in Jesus’ absence by His word (vv. 8, 11).**
8. For All Believers **(vv. 20-26)**
   1. (**vv. 20-23)** – Through the work of the apostles, many would be brought to belief in Jesus.
      1. **It is Jesus’, as well as God’s will that these be UNIFIED – JUST AS GOD AND JESUS ARE.**
      2. This is necessary to convict the world that Jesus was sent by God.
      3. **(v. 22)** – **Glory** – Jesus received Glory by submitting to the Father’s will – SO IT IS WITH US, and in that way we are unified with God and Jesus (**cf. 2 Peter 1:2-4** – Partakers, i.e. sharers in, the DIVINE NATURE).
         1. ***“that they may be one just as We are one”***
      4. **(v. 23)** – Such oneness would manifest to the world that God has loved them.
         1. **For in abiding by God’s commandments HIS LOVE ABIDES IN THEM.**
         2. **Cf. 14:21** – love God – keep commandments – be loved by God.
   2. **(vv. 24-26)** – This ONENESS while on earth is Jesus desire to the end that they will be where He is.
      1. There is the connection of LOVE, KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (word and keeping it), and GLORY.
      2. **Jesus not only wants us to see His glory more fully, but to partake in it.**
      3. **In that day we will be unified with Him to the GREATEST DEGREE.**
      4. *Until then, it begins now as we obey His word and are unified with Him in that way –* ***cf. 1 John 3:1-3****.*
9. That They All May Be One
10. Division is wholly contrary to the nature and will of God and Christ – **cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13** – Is Christ divided? NO.
11. **God desires ONENESS or UNITY in His children because it is a facet of His very NATURE!**

**Conclusion**

1. Division is contrary to God and His will.
2. The church is not to be divided, but united.
3. **This occurs as we appeal to God’s word for instruction, and follow what it says.**