

## Christ's Prayer for Our Sanctification (Part I)

*John 17:6-19*

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Introduction: All Christians seem to give hardy agreement to the first verse of the song, "*The Way of the Cross*," written by Jessie Brown Pounds. It says, "I must needs go home by the way of the cross, there's no other way but this: I shall ne'er get sight of the gates of light, if the way of the cross I miss." The second verse also gets easy assent, as it proclaims, "I must needs go on in the blood-sprinkled way, the path that the Savior trod; If I ever climb to the heights sublime, where the soul is at home with God." But it seems there are much fewer Christians who are able to sing from their hearts the last verse: "Then I bid farewell to the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore. For my Lord says, 'Come,' and I seek my home, where He waits at the open door." What should be the believer's relationship to this world? We are given the answer in this high priestly prayer of our Lord, as He prays for His apostles. Last week we considered Christ's definition of eternal in the section of Christ's glorification. Tonight we see His prayer for the apostles' sanctification, beginning in verse 6. Part one of our look at the believer's sanctification is verses 6-10. We will look in future messages at verses 11-19. Note here in these verses how Christ prays for those who are out of the world (:6-10), yet in the world (:11-13); not of the world (:14-17), & yet sent into the world (:18-19). Or simply: "Those in the world, but not of the world; those out of the world, but sent into the world."

I. The believer is "*out of the world*" (:6-10) > speaks of **salvation**  
[define "*world*" ("*kosmos*" - found 16 times in verses 6-19) > (1) the world in which we live? (2) the world of mankind opposed to Christ? (3) the world system, under the power of Satan, the "*prince of this world*"?]

A. The believer's **citizenship** is in heaven

1. An **explanation** – see Philippians 3:20 – he is to **look** for it

2. An **example** – see Hebrews 11:13-16 – he is to **long** for it

3. An **exhortation** – see Philippians 1:27 – he is to **live** like it

Application: "...our standing up there & our state down here, our position up there & our condition down here ought to match" (Havner). Matthew Henry said, "We are pilgrims & strangers, exiles & aliens, & this world is our passage but not our portion."

B. The believer's **discipleship** is on earth

[Christ says of His apostles, "*...they have kept thy word*" (:6) – note their reaction to Christ's words (:8)]

1. They received His divine **oracles** – "*...words which Thou gavest Me...*"

2. They knew His divine **origin** – "*...have known surely that I came out from Thee...*"

3. They believed His divine **orders** – "*...& they have believed that Thou didst send Me.*"

Application: Compare John 8:31-32. The believer is to be faithful to His word; familiar with His word; free in His word (liberty in Christ – free not to sin).

Conclusion: We are reminded first in this section of John 17 that the believer's citizenship is in heaven. "A dog is at home in this world for this is the only world a dog will ever know, but we cannot make ourselves at home here for we were made for another world" (Havner). Can you truly sing this evening, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through..."? We also learn that the believer's discipleship is on earth.

Compare John 8:31-32. The believer is to be faithful to His word (“*If ye continue in My word...*”); the believe is to be familiar with His word (“*ye shall know the truth*”); & the believer is free in His word (“*the truth shall make you free*” ->liberty in Christ – free not to sin & cf. I John 2:1). Are you able to sing from your heart & truly mean it: “Then I bid farewell o the way of the world, to walk in it nevermore”?

Consider again the progression of thought in Christ’s High-Priestly prayer. “Jesus first prayed for Himself & told the Father that His work on earth had been finished (17:1-5). Then He prayer for His disciples, that the Father would *keep them & sanctify them* (6-19). He closed His prayer by praying for you & me & the whole church that we might be unified in Him & one day share His glory (:20-26).” (Wiersbe). As we continue examining this second section of Christ’s prayer (:6-19), we lean of Christ encouraging His disciples as “He prayer about their security, their joy, their unity, & their future glory” (Wiersbe). I trust we also will find encouragement from our Savior’s prayer!