

Christ's Prayer for Our Sanctification (Part II)

John 17:6-19

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Introduction: We continue our look at the Lord's Prayer recorded in John 17. There appear to be 3 parts of Christ's prayer: (1) Prayer for His glorification (:1-5); (2) Prayer for our sanctification (:6-19); & (3) Prayer for our unification (:20-26). Two weeks ago we noted that the prayer for our sanctification begins in verses 6-10, where we see that the believer is "*out of the world*" (his salvation) – & we learn that the believer's citizenship is in heaven while his discipleship is on earth. Now in verses 11-13 we learn that the believer is "*in the world*" (his situation) where we see that the believer now has association with the world (there is contact), but the believer is to have no accommodation with the world (there is to be no compromise). Continuing our examination of the song, "*The Way of the Cross*," written by Jessie Brown Pounds, we read in verse three: "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. Note again here in these verses how Christ prays for those who are out of the world (2 weeks ago – our salvation), yet in the world (tonight – our situation); not of the world, yet sent into the world.

[Review: I. The believer is "*out of the world*" (:6-10) > speaks of **salvation**

[define "*world*" – (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."

Illustration: "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).

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).]

II. The believer is "*in the world*" (:11-13) > speaks of **situation** (see vs 11, 2 times, 12 -13)

A. For **now – association** with the world (there is contact)

1. Contact with the world – see I Corinthians 5:9-11
 - a. See Matthew 5:43-45.
 - b. See also Romans 12:17-21)

[“The old mystics tried to make themselves holier by hiding from society, but living in a hole does not make you holier!” (Havner).]

2. **Concern** for the world – see Jude :22-23, “*And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*”
 - a. See Jeremiah 8:18-22.
 - b. See also Lamentations 3:48-51.

B. But **no – accommodation** with the world (there is to be no compromise)

1. No **fellowship** (see Ephesians 5:10-13)
 - a. He is to “approve” what is acceptable to the Lord (:10)
 - (1) I Thessalonians 4:1, “*...that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk & to please God, so ye would abound more & more.*”
 - (2) Colossians 1:9-11, “*...That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing...*”- by being fruitful, factual, & faithful.
 - b. He is to “reprove” what is unacceptable to the Lord (:11)
 - (1) He must express God’s holiness.
 - (2) He must expose man’s sinfulness.
2. No **friendship**
 - a. James 4:4, “*...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*”
 - b. You cannot hold the Lord with one hand & the world with the other.
 Illustrate: “Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?” Answer: No!

Conclusion: We are reminded first in this section of John 17 that the believer’s citizenship is in heaven. Again, “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. In verse 11-13, speaking of our situation, we learn: For now, we have association with the world – there is contact. But there is to be no accommodation with the world – there is to be no compromise (no fellowship nor friendship with the world).

Is your relationship to the world in answer to the Lord’s prayer? Are you out of this world, yet in the world? We will later learn that we are not of the world, yet sent into this world.

Again I ask in the words of the hymn-writer: “Is this vile world a friend to grace, To help me on to God?” Let’s close with hymn #574...