

Title: Separate from the World

Object: **Small Bottle** - water, vegetable oil, food coloring. Fill the bottle about 1/3 full with water, and add enough brightly-colored food coloring to make it readily visible. Add vegetable oil until the bottle is about 2/3 full. The oil will float on the water, but when the jar is shaken vigorously, the oil and water will appear to become one. But, if left to stand for a brief period of time, (about 30 seconds) they will separate again.

Scripture: **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. . . As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”** (John 17:16 and 18)

There are two things in this bottle. Can you guess what they are? The bottle has colored water and oil. When we look at this bottle with oil and water in it, the first thing that we notice is that they remain separate from one another. Now, watch what happens when I shake the bottle. The water and oil appear to become one.

Have the oil and water really become one? Let's let the bottle stand for a little while and see what happens. Look! The water and oil are beginning separate again. That shows us that even when they were all mixed together, they were never really one. As we continue the service this morning I want you to look at the bottle and see if it continues to separate.

This bottle is a pretty good picture of what Jesus wants us to be like in this world we live in. We begin in the world, Jesus calls us out of the world and as we draw closer to Him we have less and less stain of the world on us.

Before Jesus was crucified, he prayed for His disciples. He prayed that as they lived in the world, they would not become part of the world. Jesus wanted them to add the gifts He had given them to the world -- just as the water added some color to the oil -- but Jesus did not want them to become stained by the world. He wanted

them to remain the person God made them to be. Jesus wanted them to know His love and to share that love with others.

This prayer is for us too. Jesus said that just as His Father sent Him into the world, He has sent us into the world. We must live in this world, but Jesus has called us to be separate from how the fallen world lives. Just as this colored water separates from the oil, Jesus wants us to be separate from the world.

Dear Jesus, help us, as we live in this world, to remain faithful to Your call to be separate from the world. Strengthen our faith so that our lives will bring You honor and glory. Amen.

John 17:11-19

Title – The Lord's Prayer, Part III

Opening

I am enjoying our time in John chapter 17, it has enriched me and I pray it is enriching you as well. This chapter is known as "The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus Christ" or as I am calling it the true "Lord's Prayer." Chapter 17 is Jesus' prayer for those whom the Father has given Him and therefore, they belong to Jesus and are owned by Him. Jesus is letting the disciples and us see how He will care for us after the cross and He is resurrected. Here Jesus intercedes in prayer for the disciples before the Father. Next week we will look at Jesus' intercession for all believers to follow. Jesus is in heaven with the Father and before the Father interceding on behalf of all believers. God the Father cannot be in the presence of sin, so even though you and I are redeemed sinners, we cannot be in the direct presence of God the Father and live. The Old Testament shows this clearly with Moses on Mount Sinai in Exodus and Luke also wrote of Moses' meeting with God in Acts 7. God the Father sees us as pure and sinless because of Christ's atonement when He bore our sins on the cross. I am so thankful for the Father sending the Son – not only for my personal salvation, but also for you, my beloved, and for the all the saints. Take a moment and imagine this world devoid of Christ. A world devoid of Christ is certainly a frightening image. Because Jesus is the Christ, know this, even though Satan has influence in this fallen world, he lost his power at the cross and it is just a matter of time for God's plan to be completed.

There are two themes running through this entire prayer: unity and love. In verses 1 to 5 we read of the love that the Father has for the Son and the love the Father has for His chosen children. We are able to understand, it is because of the Father's love for His chosen that He sent the Son. We are able to experience the love the Son has for those the Father has given to Him. Through this deep commitment of love God is glorified. We see the obvious unity between the Father and Son, but there is also the unity for all who God has chosen with Him for eternity.

UNITY

Unity means oneness or multiple parts that are joined to be one. This is what Jesus is saying as He continues with His High Priestly Prayer in verse 11, **“And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”** Jesus always had unity with the Father, but there was a fracture. Jesus had to come to the earth to fulfill the Father's plan for our salvation and though they were of one mind they were separated by the physicality of Jesus. God is Spirit and prior to Jesus coming to earth He was also pure Spirit. When Jesus ascended back to heaven the Son and Father were once again completely one again in every aspect. The disciples and you and me have become one or have unity with God the Father through the atoning work of God the Son. Like Christ when He was on earth we too are physically separated from God. Unlike Christ who was sinless and one with the Father we are sinners and are separated from God by our sin until we are saved by Jesus. So, for a time, we remain here on earth as redeemed sinners struggling with sin and living holy in

this fallen world steeped in sin.

UNITY and the Church

God the Father and God the Son are in perfect unity, but what about the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ? It is not hard to see that the many churches throughout the world claiming to be Christian and claiming Jesus are in disunity. Why? When a church deviates from the written Word of God there is a loss of harmony and unity with God and with other churches. Jesus calls His Church to follow His example when He instructed us, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”** (Matthew 18:19 & 20) My beloved this is what creates unity among Christians. The scriptures teach us that God the Father and God the Son are in perfect unity. God has revealed His thoughts to us in the inspired scriptures, the Bible. Christian unity is living in agreement with God’s Word as He has revealed it.

UNITY and Love

The love of Christ for the chosen of God is seen throughout the Bible. Since we have spent over a year in John I am reminded of what Jesus said in Chapter 13, **“Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come, that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end.”** (John 13:1) Jesus loves those given by the Father completely, totally, unconditionally **“unto the end.”** And this is why we find Jesus in chapter 17 on His knees before God the Father. All through the second half of John’s gospel Jesus has been teaching the disciples

and His followers concerning His promise of agape love for them. Now on His knees, Jesus who knows the past, present and future prays to the Father with a heart of love because He knows the Father alone has the power to fulfill these promises in His perfect will. Most people would say that 1 Corinthians 13 is the love chapter, but I think John 17 is the love chapter, the deep pure love of God the Father and God the Son. We know that most people love themselves above others and yet we do not love ourselves enough to pray to God unceasingly. But, Jesus loves us so completely this is exactly what He does – He prays unceasingly before the Father for millions of believers all at the same time – truly amazing. The writer of Hebrews understood this when he wrote, Jesus *“continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”* (Hebrews 7:24b-25) This demonstrates how much Christ loves all those who believe in Him as the Christ and His love for each individual given by the Father. His hour has arrived and His ministry of intercession will begin with His ascension.

UNITY and Prayer

Jesus' prayer is specifically for the 11 disciples who are with Him at this last hour. Jesus began, in verse 6, saying, *“I have manifested your name, God the Father's name, to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were all believers belong to the Father, and you gave them to me all believers have been given to Jesus by the Father, and they have kept your word.”* These remaining 11 have been faithful and have kept God's word. Jesus is speaking with the Father, not for the Father's sake – for God knows what His promises are and His agape love for those He has chosen. Jesus speaks for the benefit of the disciples and

because what Jesus spoke and His knowing what He spoke would be given by the Holy Spirit to the disciples to write – it is meant for us as well. Understand that even though the disciples would waver in living out their faith until they saw Jesus again after His resurrection, Jesus is “loaning” the disciples care back to the Father while He finishes the work of the cross. Jesus is saying, I know Father you will protect them because they were Yours to begin with.

Jesus put His case before the Father for the sake of the disciples, reading beginning in verse 12 of John 17, “While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. **14** I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **15** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” (John 17:12-15) Satan could not touch the disciples while Jesus was with them for he had no power that was then or is today able to stand up to Jesus. Jesus even protected Judas until it was time for the Scriptures to be fulfilled. Both Satan and Judas with their evil self-motivated desire, in truth, ended up fulfilling the very plan and will of God. But, until Jesus is raised and glorified the disciples will be under the Father’s protection.

Remember last week we ended with Jesus speaking in verse 10, “All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.” In other words Jesus is saying to the Father for the benefit of the disciples that the Father will guard and protect the disciples because Jesus is to be glorified in these disciples. These

disciples will establish Jesus' church and this will glorify Him. It is these disciples who will be inspired to write the words of God that will become the New Testament and this will bring God glory. It is these disciples by the demonstration of changed lives living in the Spirit that will glorify God. It is these disciples whose preaching of the Word of God will be used by God so that men and women will give their lives to Christ and this too, will bring God glory. It is the way that these disciples will die that will also bear testimony of Jesus as the Christ and this will bring God glory. My beloved, do you see and understand the legacy that these 11 men have given to all Christians from generation to generation? This is where unity of faith and love is found. **"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."**

(Philippians 1:21)

Luke records how this unity and love was and is to be lived out, writing, **42** **"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (the Scriptures or Bible) and the fellowship (the gathering as we are doing to hear the Word and bring our lives into compliance with God's Word), to the breaking of bread (the practice of Communion until the Lord's return and communal meals as fellow believers) and the prayers (an important part of church community is spending time in prayer together).** **43** **And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.** *(We can experience the awe of God upon our souls experience signs and wonders for the purpose of glorifying God. The first sign and wonder is God allows us to be involved in the awaking of a person's soul and we see them give their lives to God. We see how they are removed from this world and set apart or made holy for God)* **44** **And all who believed were together and had all things in common.** **45** **And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.** *(If we have*

excess and there is true need among those faithful in our body we are to meet their need.) **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. *(We cannot expect to have favor with people if they see our faith and the living out of our faith is not genuine.)* And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” This is how a church shows its love first to Jesus and then to others. How are we doing at Canyon Bible? Do you desire Jesus’ church grow? Then individually and as a church community we must live out these principals. Just as Jesus instructed and as the disciples demonstrated we are to live the gospel of Jesus and this is where we will find love and unity. We are to seek out the lost and bring them into the church to hear the Word of God.

In His prayer Jesus makes requests on the disciples behalf. Jesus established the right to divine welfare for believers and He established the reason that He prays and we are to pray. Prayer is important because prayer is the personal possession of the Trinity and prayer is God’s gift to believers. Also it is believers who are the glorifiers of Christ.

We also see two things in this prayer that Jesus does not pray for. First, Jesus does not intercede for unbelievers. We see this in verse 9, “**I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.**” Second, He does not pray that the Father would remove believers from the world. In verse 15 Jesus says, “**I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.**” This is an important point. Jesus never prays that the disciples escape the brutality of this world, but

that they would find victory in this fallen world, which they did. This is true for us, as well, we are not to hide in a walled off commune or monastery, but live life to the fullest for Christ that we might be a light in this dark world. The Apostle Paul of unbelievers as compared to those who God has saved, “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

There are times when it is right to withdraw, finding a quiet place and spending time with God in study, meditation and prayer. The purpose is to know better the will of God to equip us for holy battle of sharing the gospel and loving the unloved.

We now know there are two things Jesus does not pray for, but there are four things He does pray for. These are for all Disciples of Christ for all ages, but they are also very specific to the eleven disciples. Jesus prays for their unity or oneness while living in the world. He prays for His disciples present and future to experience joy through their relationship with Him while living in a broken world. Jesus prays that by the power of the Father they would be protected as they serve God. Finally, Jesus prays that they would be sanctified and will remain holy, not being corrupted by the world. It would be easy to spend an entire sermon of each of these, but I won't at this time.

UNITY and Believers

Jesus prays for unity or oneness in verse 11, “And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

Jesus' address, "Holy Father," portrays the image of the "otherliness" of God, the One and only God. God created everything in the vast universe and is truly "otherly" or beyond description and understanding! The God that is One and yet, makes Himself know to mankind in three personalities. By keeping those chosen by God the Father and given to Christ in God's name - makes believers holy and keeps God's name holy. Do you know that if you openly sin against God not only do you defame your name and character but you defame the most Holy God our Father! Your sin tarnishes the name of Jesus, which helps the allies of Satan convince the fallen world that there really is no difference between those who claim Christ and the rest of the world. I have heard people say that their sin only hurts themselves. This could not be more wrong. Jesus says, **11 "Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."** "Keep them in your name" refers to believers living to keep the name of God holy. I remember when I was about 9 or 10 years old and I did something wrong my dad called my name and I knew a spanking was coming. But, he sat me down and explained that the only thing of value he had to give me was his name. I do not remember what it was that I did, but my dad said I had brought dishonor to the name his father had given him and the name he had given me. He explained that the value of our name was dependent upon whether I became a man of honor or not. How I wished he had spanked me, but I will never forget that talk. My beloved, we bear the name of Jesus Christ, the name "Christian." What value does your life give to the name God gave to His chosen? There have been a few times in my life I would have preferred God spanked me rather than to have disappointed Him and I knew I had made a decision that hurt His holy name. This why Jesus prayed to God the Father, **16 "They are not of the**

world, just as I am not of the world. **17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.**” To be sanctified one must believe; believe Jesus is the Christ, believe the Bible is the Word of God, then, we are ready to be sent into the world. It is the truth of the Word of God that brings unity and glorifies His name. Our lives are to bring unity and glorify God’s name by living the high standard of His Word.

UNITY and Holiness

Our unity with the holiness of God is important, our unity with the holy Word of God is important, our unity with one another is important – for the world is watching. Let us live in holiness for the glory of God before all people. It is holy living in unity with God that brings joy. Jesus tells us through His prayer that we are to experience the joy of the Lord even while living among the corrupt. This is why there is such a need for unity in the church. Yes, the Lord has the power to overcome all and protect His children, but Jesus specifically gave believers the church to enable them to live for Christ and at the same time for the church to provide protection for believers. When there is not unity within the body there is no protection and the fallen world is correct when they say, “You see they are no different from anyone else – hypocrites!” How can we possibly remain holy by ourselves – face it – I do not care how strong you are, left to yourself - you are easy pickin’s for the devil.

We saw that after a brief time of weakness and denial the disciples came back to live for Christ, preach Christ crucified but risen. They preached the living Christ who makes broken sinners into people of God that spiritually light the way in this

world. Are you in unity with God? Do you bring unity to His church? Do you bring unity to your family? When your family and those you call brothers and sisters in Christ, gather for your funeral what will be the value of your name? And, more importantly what value will you have given by your life to the name of Christ? Will people quickly say here lays a man or woman of God, a person of faith and a person of great love? The world is watching and how you live for Christ is of the greatest importance.

Let me close with the heart verses for Canyon Bible, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

Let us live holy before our holy God and the world.

Do I hear an “Amen!”