

PERFECTED UNITY

The context of our lesson is the high priestly prayer of Jesus Christ in John Ch.17. This is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible.

This prayer involved three petition sections.

- The first petition section involved **Jesus** (Jn.17:1-5)
- The second petition section involved **His disciples** (Jn.17:6-19)
- The third petition section involved **us** (church age believers) (Jn.17:20-26)

The third petition section was a high priestly prayer for every church age believer – you and me!

After reading Jn.17:20-26, write on the blank line what Jesus prayed of us_____.

“I do not ask in behalf of these (His disciples) alone, **but for those also who believe in Me** (Church Age Believers) (CAB) through their word; **that (hina / divine purpose) they** (CAB) may be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that **they** also may be in Us; **that (hina / divine purpose) the world** may believe that didst send Me. And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; **that (divine purpose) they** (world) may believe that Thou didst send Me.” (Jn.17:20-22)

Write the effect the answer to Jesus’ prayer will have on the world through us_____.

This lesson will study three aspects of the effect of Jesus’ prayer of you and me upon the world.

1. The high priestly prayer of Jesus for every church age believer is stated in Jn. 17:23.

“I in them, and Thou in Me, **that (hina / divine purpose) they may be perfected in unity, that** (hina / divine purpose) the world may know (ginosko / p.a.subj) [observation] that (hoti) [declaration of established truth of Jn.17:20-22] Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.” (Jn.17:23)

How is perfected unity introduced in Jn.17:23?_____.

This is stated by a perfect periphrastic verbal form to place emphasis upon the effect of perfected unity of church age believers upon the world [may be] (eimi / p.a.subj) [perfected] (teleioo / perf.p.ptc.nplm).

The Greek word teleioo means to reach a goal or to finish or to complete or to perfect a task. It refers to reaching spiritual growth maturity by cycling the word of God through the faith cycle. (Heb.5:13-14; James 2:22)

Hearing (Rom.10:17)

Completing (James 2:22)

Believing (Heb.4:2)

Applying (2 Cor.5:7)

What TWO effects does “perfected unity” of Church Age Believers have upon the world of unbelievers?

_____ and _____

2. When the world observes UNITY among spiritually mature believers, they believe that God has sent Jesus to them.

“That they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; **that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.**” (Jn.17:21, 23; 20:21)

Jesus dealt with this very issue in the parable of the Vine-growers – “And the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my Beloved Son; perhaps they will respect Him.’” (Lk.20:13)

However true to the parable Israel killed the Son thinking that the inheritance was their apart from Jesus Christ (Lk.20:14-16). Now it is our turn! How will we treat God’s son who was send to the world for our salvation? (Jn.3:16-17)

“It is trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**, among whom I am foremost of all.” (1 Tim.1:15; Rom.1:16)

“And he Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, **but also for those of the whole world.**” (1 Jn.2:2)

3. When the world observes UNITY among spiritually mature believers, they believe that God loves them just as much as He loved His Only Begotten Son.

“To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Eph.1:6)

“Therefore be imitators of God, **as beloved children**; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Eph.5:1-2)

“I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, **and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.**” (Jn.17:23)

“By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His Only Begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **In this is love**, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 Jn. 4:9-10; Rom.5:8-10)

UNITY BUILDER:

“Do nothing from selfishness and empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for our own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Phil.2:3-4)