

180. The Gospel of John—17:11-13

“With Jesus Behind the Veil” Part 14

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Find this weeks’ sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

We have been studying Jesus’ prayer to His Father on the night before His crucifixion—a prayer He prayed with His disciples standing there listening.

Why did He pray this very intimate prayer to His Father in their presence? So that they would know and understand what was most important to Him with regard to their welfare and the Kingdom of God going forward.

I think the big reason He prayed this prayer in their presence was because—these were things that He wanted to be the focus of their prayers for one another after He returned to the Father, and they continued the work of the Kingdom in His absence.

This prayer is divided up into 3 main parts:

1. **Jesus Prays for Himself—verses 1-5**
2. **Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19**
3. **Jesus Prays for All Believers—verses 20-26**

We are currently in the second main part of this prayer—

2. Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19

This section of Scripture contains what Jesus was most concerned about for His disciples on the night before His crucifixion—His prayer is made up of 3 things:

- A. **That the Father would use them (to bring Jesus glory)—verses 9-10**
- B. **That the Father would keep them—verses 11-13**
- C. **That the Father would sanctify them—verses 14-19**
- B. **That the Father would keep them—verses 11-13, 15**

John 17:11-13, 15 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves... ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one [the devil].

Jesus' prayer to His Father that He would *keep* His disciples from the devil falls into 4 basic parts or requests:

1. **That the Father would keep them from Damnation**
(that they would be eternally secure)
2. **That the Father would keep them from Death**
(that Satan would not be allowed to kill them until their work for the Kingdom was finished)
3. **That the Father would keep them from Division**
(that they would always be in unity with one another)
4. **That the Father would keep them from Defilement**
(free from the corruption of the world)

Last week we looked at number 3—

3. **That the Father would Keep them from Division**

John 17:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

So here, Jesus is praying that the Father would keep His disciples in *unity*—“**that they may be one as We are (one).**”

Unity leads to *joy* (verse 13) and *victory* (there is strength in numbers)—whereas division leads *strife* and *defeat*.

Unity is of the Holy Spirit—whereas division is of the devil (whose main strategy is ‘*divide and conquer*’).

As we said last week—unity is impossible without *humility* (being dead to self).

The devil could never sow discord and division into a family or a church without *pride*—pride being the opposite of *humility*. (Checkout last week’s message)

4. **That the Father would Keep them from Defilement**

John 17:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

Notice the emphasis on the word “**Holy**”—“**Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me...**” By praying that the Father would ‘**keep**’ His disciples, and then emphasizing the fact that the Father is ‘**Holy**’—I believe indicates that Jesus is praying that the Father would keep His disciples holy as He is holy..

The word ‘**holy**’ comes from a Greek word that means ‘*separated*’ or ‘*set apart*’.

We’ll have more to say about this next time—but for now understand that the only way to stay undefiled by the world is to remain separate from the world!

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (NLT2)

¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. ¹⁸ And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

So, here in John 17:11 when Jesus prays—**Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me**—He is praying that the Father would keep them from the defilement (corruption) of the world.

In the Old Testament, God told His people what was unclean, corrupt and defiling—and forbid them from coming into contact with these things lest they became defiled and couldn't have fellowship with Him (until an offering was made on their behalf)—one example:

Leviticus 18:20-27 (NLT2)

²⁰ "Do not defile yourself by having sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife. ²¹ "Do not permit any of your children to be offered as a sacrifice to Molech, for you must not ['profane'] the name of your God. I am the LORD. ²² "Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin. ²³ "A man must not defile himself by having sex with an animal. And a woman must not offer herself to a male animal to have intercourse with it. This is a perverse act. ²⁴ "Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for the people I am driving out before you have defiled themselves in all these ways. ²⁵ Because the entire land has become defiled, I am punishing the people who live there. I will cause the land to vomit them out. ²⁶ You must obey all my decrees and regulations. You must not commit any of these detestable sins. This applies both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you. ²⁷ "All these detestable activities are practiced by the people of the land where I am taking you, and this is how the land has become defiled.

In the Old Testament a person was '*defiled*' when they came in contact with anything that God declared unclean.

Leviticus 5:2-3 (NKJV)

² ...if a person touches any unclean thing, whether *it is* the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean livestock, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and he is unaware of it, he also shall be unclean and guilty. ³ Or if he touches human uncleanness--whatever uncleanness with which a man may be defiled, and he is unaware of it--when he realizes *it*, then he shall be guilty.

So again, a person becomes defiled when they come in contact with something that God has declared '*unclean*.'

Essentially, under the New Covenant coming into contact with the world is to be defiled.

- "*But we live in the world, so how can we help but come into contact with it!?*"
- I'm not talking about coming in contact with the world in the sense of living on planet earth.
- I'm talking about the world in the sense of the '*fallen world system*' that Satan is in control of.

Please understand, this world is under the control of the devil whom the Bible calls the "*god of this world*." (2 Corinthians 4:4)—also:

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

As Christians we are living *in* the world, but we must never be a part *of* or in fellowship *with* the world.

We must (by the power of the Holy Spirit) learn how to be in the world (serving God) while remaining separate from the world. Really, this is at the heart of spiritual warfare—which is a battle for control of our hearts in who or what we are going to love more—God or the world.

1 John 2:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

When John says that children of God must not *'love the world'*—he uses the Greek word *'kosmos'*. *'Kosmos'* is a word that doesn't mean the *'planet earth'* but—the fallen world system which is controlled by Satan. Planet earth was created by God and is a beautiful and awesome thing to behold.

It is not to be worshipped (Romans 1:20-25) but to be enjoyed and looked to as something that declares the glory of God who created it—and therefore motivates us to worship Him! On the other hand, *kosmos* is a word that refers to the domain of Satan (the god of this world) with all of its temptations and lusts—and therefore must not be loved by God's people.

In fact, James said, *"friendship with the world is enmity with God?"* (James 4:4).

One pastor put it this way—

*"Kosmos (**world**) does not refer to the physical earth or universe but rather to the spiritual reality of the man-centered, Satan-directed system of this present age, which is hostile to God and God's people. It refers to the self-centered, godless value system and mores of fallen mankind. The goal of **the world** is self-glory, self-fulfillment, self-indulgence, self-satisfaction, and every other form of self-serving—all of which amounts to hostility toward God."*

James 1:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted [undefiled, uncorrupted] from the world.

One author said—

"Pure 'religion' has nothing to do with ceremonies, temples, or special days. Pure religion means practicing God's Word and sharing it with others, through speech, service, and separation from the world...We are sent into the world to win others to Christ (John 17:18). It is only as we maintain our separation from the world that we can serve and be used to save others."

Now you understand why this subject was so much on the heart of Jesus the night before He went to the cross and why He brought it to His Father in prayer for His disciples. He knew they could never *reach* the world with the gospel if they became *defiled* by the world—and they could only remain undefiled by the world if they remained separate from the world.

**The world is a defiling place—
with many things that will corrupt our walks
and will break our fellowship with the Lord.**

When that happens, the connection that we have with Him is broken (until we confess our sin and repent)—and when that happens our lives become disconnected from the power of the Holy Spirit which stops flowing in and thru our lives.

The result is—our lives become impotent, weak and ineffectual for God.

As I said, the world is a defiling place—purposely designed by the devil to be so.

- We can be defiled by the world thru drugs, alcohol, pornography, a hunger for power, greed, and lust (both sexual and material lust).
- The world's 'entertainment' is super defiling today—including things like: TV shows, movies, music and so much of the junk people feed their minds on watching YouTube.
- And now add social media to the mix like: Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, Tumblr, Flickr—which elevate the devil's defilements to a whole new level in preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church.

But even for Christians who stay away from most of those defiling media and social media outlets—there are other ways we can be defiled:

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness [due to pride and unforgiveness] springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

James 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body [due to gossip and slander] and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.

What are some of the things we can do to keep from being defiled by the world—remembering that the best defense is a good strong offense.

1. Purposing In Your Heart To Live An Undefined Life For God

Daniel 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel didn't live any differently in Babylon than he did in Jerusalem. By the same token, Christians shouldn't live any differently in the world as they do in church. But with regard to Daniel living on purpose—you won't live the Christian life on accident—you have to live it on purpose!

That starts in the heart with your personal commitment to God—

2. Planning Your Day To Live An Undefined Life For God

If you plan your day (what you're going to do and NOT do), where you're going to go and NOT go, and who

you're going to see and NOT see)—you will keep from being defiled to a minimum and experience victory on a much greater scale.

This works for dieting—don't impulse eat—plan your meals ahead of time and stick to a good, nutritional diet plan. Most of the time we fall into temptation when we are meandering thru our day or channel surfing at night or are idle and are not living with purpose by planning ahead—be busy serving God!

If you busy yourself by being about your Father's business the devil won't be able to use idleness against you—as he did with King David.

3. Purging Your House To Live An undefiled Life For God

The environment where you spend most of your time (inside your home) needs to be 'sanctified'—a safe place from temptation and sin.

Psalm 101:2-4 (NKJV)

² I will behave wisely in a perfect way...I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³ I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. ⁴ A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates [i.e., 'surround yourself in your home with the Word of God'].

Acts 19:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all [i.e., 'they purged their homes of all evil']. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

One pastor commented on this—

"They destroyed all their magic paraphernalia publicly, in the sight of all. It also prompted Christians to renounce any connection with the demonic that may have been remaining; they renounced the demonic by confessing and burning their magic books, disregarding whatever value they might have. Christians must do this also today, removing books (Harry Potter), tapes, records, statues, charms, games (Ouija Boards, Dungeons and Dragons etc.), or whatever else might have a connection with demonic spirits—and destroy them.

These books and scrolls full of magic charms, amulets and incantations were well known in Ephesus—and were very valuable. The total value of the magical books and spells that they burned was equivalent to fifty-thousand pieces of silver. Even though fifty thousand pieces of silver would have been equivalent of the yearly wage of one hundred fifty men—these new believers didn't hold a garage sale or give their stuff away. They burned it.

Folks don't sell stuff you know is harmful. Be like these guys, and trash it. Pour it down the drain. Flush it down the toilet—Destroy it!"

1. Purposing in your heart

2. Planning your day

3. Purging your house

4. Promises of God (as in believing in and clinging to God's promises in His Word) to live an undefiled life for God

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

A couple examples of God's great and precious promises that we should cling to are:

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

In closing, understand that God blesses those who keep themselves pure from the pollutions of the world—

Psalms 119:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! ² Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart! ³ They also do no iniquity; They walk in His ways.

The problem with living in darkness is—you start getting used to the darkness and actually start thinking you're living as a 'light.'

You start thinking that because we Christians aren't as sinful as those in the world our compromises aren't bad—and we actually deceive ourselves in thinking that we are '*lights in the darkness*' instead of what we really are—a part of the darkness!

Vance Havner

"We are living in the dark. We were born into it and it was born in us. We were children of darkness at one time but when we received the gospel, we became children of light. At that point the darkness inside us was replaced with light but we found ourselves still living in the moral and spiritual darkness of this world which is all around us.

We are living at the close of an age that is dominated by the prince and powers of darkness—a world where men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

But the night is far spent, the day of Christ's return is at hand—and yet it's always blackest before the dawn.

The darkness has never been more pervasive and persuasive in my lifetime than it is today in our nation. Not only do we live in the dark as Christians—we've gotten used to the dark.

We have all had the experience of walking into a very dark room where all we could see was blackness—but after a few seconds our eyes adjusted, and we got used to the dark. This has happened to many Christians spiritually and morally. We are all experiencing a slow, subtle and sinister brainwashing process that is gradually desensitizing us to the darkness.

Little by little sin is being made to look less and less sinful until the light that is in us is darkness, and as Jesus said, "*If the light that is in you is darkness—how great is that darkness.*" The result is we no longer hate evil. We don't abhor it—we've gotten used to the dark."

Listen, don't get used to the darkness around you—and heaven forbid don't ever lower your guard and become a part of it thinking that a little darkness isn't all that bad!

Jesus commanded us to come out of the darkness and be separate—only then can we rescue people from the darkness and bring them into God's marvelous light!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).