

Series: The Glory of Christ

Sermon: The Glory of Christ in the Church

Scripture: John 17:9-11, 20-26 (ESV)

Teacher: Jeff Norris

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John 17:9-11 (ESV)

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.

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

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.

John 17:20-26 (ESV)

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Main Idea:

The potential of the church begins to be realized when the members of the church believe and live out John chapter 17.

Belief that results in a whole-hearted fixation on the glory of Christ that is now ours.

Belief that results in a whole-hearted fixation on the unity of the Trinity that is now ours.

Belief that results in a whole-hearted fixation on the love of God that is now ours.

Glory...

The glory of Christ manifested.

The glory of Christ received.

"When believers are in Christ, then Christ is in them. This is their glory." - William Hendriksen

The glory of Christ beheld.

"The ultimate rest, blessing, and satisfaction of the soul is not in seeing the works of God, but the glory of God Himself." - John Owen

Unity...

The unity of the Father and the Son. (v. 11, 22)

The unity of the Father, the Son and his followers. (v. 10, 21, 23, 26)

"It is a unity which not merely reflects but actually participates in the unity of God -- the unity of love and obedience which binds the Son to the Father." - Leslie Newbigin

The unity of the followers of Christ. (v. 11, 21, 22, 23)

Love...

"We can apply this challenge to the local congregation. Here is where the world most immediately encounters the church. There, relationships are to be such that the watching world will come to recognize not only that Jesus is the true revelation of God, but also that you . . . Have loved them even as you have loved me. Our churches are to be 'love centers' where relationships between members are a persuasive reflection of the mutually supportive, utterly loyal and eternally accepting love of the Father and the Son. This is true whether the relationships are of men with women, young with mature, laity with clergy, new members with long-standing members, rich with poor, cultured with unsophisticated, socially upper with socially lower, leadership with membership, new converts with established Christians, racially other with racially traditional, and whatever other polarities the church embraces." - John Stott

"Despite all the contrary indications, the church is one, and will be one, in the glory of the consummation. This assurance does not absolve us from working for the expression of that unity in the present, *but it does deliver us from an unbelieving despair*. **Jesus has prevailed**. All Christians, and all churches, will one day love one another as the Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father." - John Stott