

**John 17:20-26**  
**(Psalm 133; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:21-23)**  
**“Make Them One, As We Are One”**

## **Introduction**

We come to the end of this great prayer that marks the end of Jesus’ ministry and the beginning of his final hours – his arrest, trial, crucifixion and victory over death. We have listened in the first five verses to Jesus pray for himself, and in verses six through nineteen he has prayed for those with him in the upper room. Now he prays for all of us down through the ages that have believed in him through the testimony of those first disciples. It is quite remarkable that we were most on his mind as he prepared to face the cross.

Jesus asks two things of the Father for us: one a prayer for the days of our lives, the other a prayer for the day of our death.

## **Body**

**1. Jesus prays for the days of our lives (17:21-23):**

*That they may all be one, just as we are one.  
That the world may believe that you sent me.*

**2. Jesus prays for the day of our death (17:24):**

*That they may be with me where I am.  
That they may see my glory.*

## **Conclusion**

The heart of it all, as in all God’s dealing with us, is love: You have “loved them,” says Jesus, “even as you have loved me” (17:23). “What wondrous love is this, o my soul?” We tend to think of our lives, our choices, our salvation, in individualistic terms. But we are deeply connected. Our choices, our decisions, our words and deeds affect all those whose lives intersect with ours. Our salvation is in union with Christ and therefore in union with one another. When we display that union now, the world has reason to believe the gospel. When we fight and divide and betray that union, the world has reason to believe that the gospel is a lie.

And the destiny prepared for us in Christ is one of union with him: a vision even now of being with him where he is and beholding his glory. All of the beauty, the excellence, the majesty that we see dimly foreshadowed here in this passing world is preparing us for the glory that is coming when at last we see the source of all that has delighted us, the One whom we have been seeking all our lives, for whom, in whom, and through whom we have our being, and whose love is our life.

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