



The Primary Purpose of People **John 17:20-26**

And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26—KJV).

And I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26—NASB).

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them (John 17:26—NRSV).

Jesus' last words in His last prayer, for all who would become His disciples, through His first disciples' teachings, carry great weight for us. Jesus prayed that we might be His disciples, that we might be in the Father and the Son, that we might be in Them as the Father is in Jesus, and as Jesus is in the Father. In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul wrote that the disciple's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which includes the Father and the Son for they cannot be separated from the Spirit. In Jesus' prayer, He revealed that the Father loves Jesus' disciples even as He loves Jesus, and He wants Jesus' disciples to be the temple of God.

Consider this: the Father loves repentant sinners who believe in Jesus even as He loves His sinless Son! Even more than this, Jesus prayed that the love with which the Father loved Him would be in His disciples, along with His presence within them. Humbly accept the fact that as a disciple of Jesus, He will make you so morally and spiritually clean inside that you are fit for God to love you and live within you, just as the Father and the Son love and live in one another!

From Jesus' prayer, we learn that Jesus has given all His disciples work to do, and one of their primary purposes is to love and live in such a way that "the world may believe that the Father sent Jesus." To make His point, Jesus said this twice in John 17:21 and John 17: 23! In John 17:21, Jesus prayed for His disciples "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." In John 17:23, Jesus prayed, "I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the

world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”

From Jesus’ prayer, we know why God made us: The Father wants to love and live within and through Jesus’ disciples as He does Jesus. God wants Jesus’ disciples to be the temple of God. Then, some in this world may come to see and believe that the Father sent Jesus and He loves and lives within all who become disciples of Jesus.

Thinking Further

1. Who did Jesus pray for in His “High Priestly Prayer” (see John 17)?
2. What did Jesus want the world to believe?
3. What does it mean to you to have the Father and the Son in you?
4. What does it mean to you to be one with the Father and Jesus and with all who believe in the Father and the Son?
5. What does it mean to you to be loved by the Father even as the Father has loved Jesus?

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