



ONE HEART FOR GOD'S CHURCH

John 17:6-12

Jesus - *"I have revealed You (Heavenly Father) to the ones You gave Me from this world. They were always Yours. You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they know that everything I have is a gift from You, 8 for I have passed on to them the message You gave Me. They accepted it and know that I came from You, and they believe You sent Me.*

9 My prayer is not for the world, but for those You have given me, because they belong to You. 10 All who are mine belong to You, and You have given them to Me, so they bring Me glory. 11 Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to You. Holy Father, You have given Me Your name; now protect them by the power of Your name so that they will be united just as We are. 12 During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name You gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. (John 17:6-12)

- **In John 17 Jesus is praying for His first century disciples that He was leaving behind - but He is also praying for His people of all time.**
- *Jesus - "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message." (John 17:20)*
- **We are blessed when others are praying for us, but even more blessed when the Son of God is praying for us.**
- *"Therefore He [Jesus] is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf." (Hebrews 7:25)*
- **In John 17, Jesus is praying for His people to be blessed, protected, encouraged and utilized by God the Father.**
- **What does it take for us to be effective members of God's Team?**

Becoming Effective Members Of God's Team Requires:

HAVING THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

- **Jesus listed key "identifiers" of those who are on His team.**

Jesus Explained That Real Christians Have:

- **BELIEVED THAT JESUS WAS SENT BY THE FATHER**

- Jesus - *“They believe You sent Me.”* (John 17:8)
- Jesus - *“‘But who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”* (Matthew 16:15-16)
- **Nothing we believe about life is more important than what we believe about Jesus.**
- Jesus - *“You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.”* (Matthew 16:17-18)
- **ACCEPTED JESUS’ MESSAGE**
 - Jesus - *“For I have passed on to them the message You gave Me. They accepted it and know that I came from You.”* (John 17:8)
 - Jesus - *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord’s favor has come.”* (Luke 4:18-19)
 - **Jesus proclaimed the He alone can meet our spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical needs.**
- **DETERMINED THAT EVERYTHING IS FROM THE LORD**
 - Jesus - *“Now they know that everything I have is a gift from You.”* (John 17:7)
 - **Once we determine that everything is from the Lord, then we must become godly managers of our resources, our opportunities, and our time.**
- **KEPT GOD’S WORD**
 - Jesus - *“They were always Yours. You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”* (John 17:6)
 - **We keep God’s Word when our actions and attitudes align with Scripture.**
- **Some “truths” from God’s Word that we should consider as we prepare to vote in upcoming elections are that:**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that seek to protect and preserve human life. (Genesis 1:26; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Proverbs 16:17; Psalm 121:7-8)**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that support the understanding that marriage is a commitment between a man and a woman. (Genesis 1:27, 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:21-32)**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that address the needs of the poor and ensure access to education for everyone. (Leviticus 19:9-10, 25:35-36; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 14:31; Matthew 5:3, 25:40)**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that oppose unjust discrimination and pursue justice for all citizens and immigrants. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Amos 5:24; Zechariah 7:9-10; Romans 13:10; 1 Corinthians 12:13)**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that promote peace in our nation and pursue peace throughout our world. (Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18; James 3:18; 1 Peter 3:11)**
 - **God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that ensure full conscience protection and religious freedom. (Galatians 5:1; Romans 14:22)**

- God wants us to support initiatives and platforms that advance care for His creation. (Genesis 1:28; 1 Samuel 2:8; Matthew 10:8-9, 14:14)
- **How strong could God's church be if ALL Christians "had the right foundation?"**

Becoming Effective Members Of God's Team Requires:

ENDURING LOTS OF TENSION

- Team Jesus is a diverse team, and diverse teams experience tension.

God's Church Experiences Tension Because We Are:

- **RESIDENTS OF EARTH, BUT CITIZENS OF HEAVEN**
 - Jesus - *"My prayer is not for the world, but for those You have given me, because they belong to You."* (John 17:9)
 - **For Christians, this world is not our home.**
 - Paul - *"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior."* (Philippians 3:20)
 - **We will have to give account to God for how we lived our lives, including our political affiliations and decisions.**
- **BORN FREE, BUT SLAVES TO GOD**
 - Joshua - *"But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."* (Joshua 24:15)
 - **God has given us free will, but we all end up serving something - the devil, the world, our flesh, pagan gods, etc.**
 - Paul - *"God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."* (1 Corinthians 6:20)
 - **Christians are to surrender their will to the Lord.**
 - Jesus - *"I have revealed You (Heavenly Father) to the ones You gave Me from this world. They were always Yours. You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."* (John 17:6)
 - **Christians have no right to displease the Lord because we belong to Him.**
- **IN HARM'S WAY, BUT WITHOUT FEAR**
 - Jesus - *"During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name You gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold."* (John 17:12)
 - **Christians should never fear the political developments of our society because the Lord is our protector.**
 - John - *"Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love."* (1 John 4:18)
 - **While we don't have the power to change many of our circumstances, we do trust in the Lord who has power over everything.**
- **With so many tensions to manage, we NEED the Lord to hold us together.**
- **How am I doing with managing the tension of being on Team Jesus?**

- Jesus - *“All who are mine belong to You, and You have given them to Me, so they bring Me glory.”* (John 17:10)
- **We bring Jesus glory when we live as effective members of Team Jesus.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***

DIG DEEPER: Further Resources For Continued Study and Growth

Jesus' Prayer from John 17:1-26 in The Visual Bible - [Click Here to Watch on Youtube](#)

Genuine Christianity Discussion with Pastors Dennis Watson and Manley Miller - [Click Here to Watch on Rightnow Media](#)

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