

The ONE Whom the Father Glorifies: John 17:1-5 (Finding Your Purpose in Life)

This one-of-a-kind prayer, the longest recorded from Jesus' lips, talks about the eternal majesty of Jesus—and that is why the prayer itself is majestic. Jesus was certainly a man of prayer. He was known to isolate himself for prayer (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16) and sometimes to spend all night in prayer (Luke 6:12). Yet we have surprisingly few examples of the wordings of Jesus' prayers. John 17 is certainly the most extensive single prayer of Jesus found in the New Testament.

Here we will see that the Father glorified the Son because He faithfully completed the purpose of His life. In this prayer, Jesus shows us not only the eternal deity He enjoyed before the creation of the world—it also shows believers today a pattern for living that glorifies God.

1. Jesus welcomes the Glory of the Cross (vv. 1, 2)

- To “glorify” Jesus meant the actual death, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus. These are inseparable.
- The outcome of this was the ability of Jesus to grant life to those who believe.
- Do we welcome the prospect that the Christian life was never promised to be a bed of roses, and in fact, unashamed followers of Christ may be called to suffer, just like He did?

2. Jesus defines the very essence of eternal life (v. 3)

- Because Jesus would be glorified, this proves that He is the only Way, the Truth and the Life. This qualifies Jesus and disqualifies all other mediators.
- Are you sure of eternal life? Or do you still believe there are other mediators that you need?

3. Jesus reveals the secret of a purposeful life (v. 4)

- While Jesus is glorified by His death and resurrection, the Father was glorified by His obedient, focused life—one that fulfilled the purpose of God.
- Have you found the purpose of your life? It is simply to know Christ, and to make Him known. If your life does not have a purpose like this, you are building your life on the wrong things.

4. Jesus rejoices in the shared glory of the Father (v. 5)

- We see that Jesus never “became” God—He was *always* God, even before the world began. Neither is He a “promoted” angel, as some cults attest.
- Man cannot save man. Only God can save man. It takes a Higher Power to rescue us from the sin that we are born in and habituated to. That God is Jesus Christ.

Final Thoughts:

Even as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper today, it is crucial to realize that salvation is free—Jesus paid the price for our sins, but the cost to us comes after salvation. That cost is the cost of discipleship—a life of obedience, fulfilling the purposes of God.

May the realization of grace today enable you to live a life that is completely offered to God, just like Jesus was.