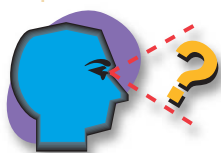


# John



## Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

### Read John 17:1-26

1. The time for God's plan of salvation to be culminated in Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension.
2. In the Old Testament the priest would intercede on behalf of the people of God by sacrificing an animal and shedding its blood to atone for the sins of the people. Now the hour has come when Jesus acts as both victim and priest. He who is our High Priest will offer his life on the altar of sacrifice, shedding his blood and dying to atone for our sins. He is praying to the Father in the role of that High Priest, who is interceding for his chosen ones, the apostles and all who will believe in him because of their testimony. Jesus prays this prayer after the Last Supper with his Apostles where he instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist (Matthew 26:26)
3. There were several ways that this prayer could have served as a good example to the eleven. They heard Christ pray for himself. However, Christ didn't only pray for himself but showed that they should also pray for their friends and family members. It was also a prayer before sacrifice (Jesus' sacrifice on the cross). Through this example of Jesus offering up prayer intentions on their behalf, the apostles were taught how to do likewise at the Sacrifice of the Mass for others. It was also a family prayer. Jesus' Apostles were like family to him and by praying for them, he set a good example as to how the head of the family should pray for his household. Lastly, it was a parting prayer. Jesus knew he was going to die and leave them. It is always good to pray with and for each other before parting (Acts 20:36) or if one knows they are leaving this world. Jacob blessed the twelve patriarchs on his deathbed (Gen. 49:28); when dying, Moses blessed the twelve tribes of Israel (Deut. 33:15) and here Jesus is praying for his twelve Apostles prior to his death. The risen Lord Jesus continues to intercede for us in heaven as our eternal Intercessor. (Romans 8:34)
4. We are told to glorify God. The way we do that is through our good examples, words and actions. Through us, God is revealed to the world. In the same way the Apostles glorified the Lord Jesus through their lives of holiness and exhibition of the fruits of the Holy Spirit who indwelt them. The Apostles of Jesus had a special role, however; they not only were to glorify Christ in their actions but they were his representatives on earth, the foundation of his Church of which he is the Chief Cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)
5. Jesus prays for his Apostles to have unity, protection, joy and holiness. He asks the Father for them to be one as he and the Father are one – that they should be united in love and harmony. Next, his request is for their protection since they are not "of the world" but have to remain in the world. Since the world is a battleground for good and evil, Jesus wants the Father to protect and shield his



## Responses to the Questions (cont.)

chosen ones from the evil one and his forces. He petitions his Father for joy – the joy that comes from knowing and loving the Lord, a deep abiding joy which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, and lastly holiness.

6. To be sanctified is to be made holy and set apart for the work that they will continue in his Name. In the Old Testament, priests would "sanctify themselves" prior to taking part in worship (Lev. 11:44). Jesus is calling on his Father to set apart his Apostles and make them holy. God had said to his prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5) Jesus was calling on his Father to sanctify his Apostles in Truth to be his holy priests. In verse 19, Jesus said, "And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth." Hebrews 13:12 states: "So Jesus also suffered outside the gate, in order to sanctify the people through his own blood." Through his crucifixion, Jesus consecrated himself so as to consecrate them.
7. Jesus says to his Father, "I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but thou shouldst keep them from the evil one." Prior to this Jesus had said that his Apostles were not of the world as he was not of the world. These statements show the world to be a spiritual battleground. That Jesus has to ask his Father to guard and protect his friends from the evil one shows us that Satan is indeed "prowling the world seeking souls to devour" (1 Peter 5:8)
8. To be kept in God's name is to be members of God's family – the Trinitarian family. We become members of the family of God through baptism. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. (See *Points to Ponder* for more on this subject).
9. Jesus commissioned his Apostles to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15) It is through his Apostles that people would hear the good news and come to believe in Jesus. It is important to note that was Christ's command to them. Through the words of the Apostles, others would come to know Jesus and the body of believers would be built; therefore the apostolic foundation of the Church was the will of Christ.
10. Jesus founded one Church, the Catholic Church. Christ prayed that we should be one - united in love and faith, just as he and the Father are one. This oneness is the oneness of love, not of sameness. We are distinct persons with different charisms, strengths and weaknesses, yet one body. At the same time, our diversity in Christ must be founded on the unity of the Blessed Trinity and not on license, human chaos, or egoistic competition or theological fantasies that "tickle itching ears" but do not reflect the teaching of the Church Christ founded and holds in existence in union with the apostolic successors: the bishops and the Pope.