

John 17:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Analysis

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world—Jesus marks the temporal transition at His crucifixion's threshold. The Greek ouketi (οὐκέτι, 'no longer') emphasizes finality: His earthly ministry concludes in hours. Yet His disciples remain en tō kosmō (ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, 'in the world'), exposed to the hostile system He conquered but they must navigate.

Holy Father, keep through thine own name (Πάτερ ἄγιε τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου)—The only place Jesus addresses God as 'Holy Father' in Scripture. Tēreō (τηρέω) means 'guard, protect, preserve'—the same word used for keeping commandments. Jesus petitions divine custody in the name, meaning by the Father's revealed character and authority. **That they may be one, as we are** (ἵνα ὕστιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς)—Unity modeled on Trinitarian union, not organizational merger but relational harmony rooted in shared divine life. This is covenant security: believers kept by God's name, not their performance.

Historical Context

This prayer (John 17) occurred in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane on Thursday evening, Nisan 14, AD 30. Jesus prayed audibly so disciples would remember His intercession after His departure. The petition for unity anticipates

the church's birth at Pentecost (Acts 2) and addresses divisions already emerging in apostolic circles (1 Corinthians 1:10-13). First-century believers faced expulsion from synagogues (John 16:2) and needed assurance of divine preservation.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's prayer 'Holy Father, keep through thine own name' assure you of security when facing hostile spiritual opposition?
2. What does unity 'as we are' (Trinitarian oneness) look like practically in your church, and how does it differ from mere organizational conformity?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐκ	ἔτι	εἰμὶ	ἐν	τῷ	κόσμῳ	καὶ	οὗτοι	ἐν	τῷ		
And	G3756	no more	G2089	I am	G1510	in	G1722	the world	And	these	in	G3588
G2532								G2889	G2532	G3778	G1722	

κόσμῳ	εἰσίν	καὶ	ἐγὼ	πρὸς	σὲ	ἔρχομαι	Πάτερ	Ἄγιε
the world	are	And	I	to	thee	come	Father	Holy
G2889	G1526	G2532	G1473	G4314	G4571	G2064	G3962	G40

τήρησον	αὐτοὺς	ἐν	τῷ	όνόματί	σου	οὗς	δέδωκάς
keep	those	in	G3588	name	thine own	whom	thou hast given
G5083	G846	G1722		G3686	G4675	G3739	G1325

μοι	ἴνα	ὦσιν	ἐν	καθὼς	ἡμεῖς
me	that	they may be	one	as	we
G3427	G2443	G5600	G1520	G2531	G2249

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:9 (Parallel theme): After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Proverbs 18:10 (Parallel theme): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Hebrews 9:24 (Holy): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Ephesians 4:4 (Parallel theme): There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Philippians 2:9 (Parallel theme): Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 17:25 (Parallel theme): O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

John 14:20 (Parallel theme): At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

John 16:33 (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.