

John 17:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Analysis

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one (κἀγὼ τὴν δόξαν ἣν δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς ἔν, kagō tēn doxan hēn dedōkas moi dedōka autois, hina ōsin hen kathōs hēmeis hen)—Jesus prays that believers share in **the glory** (τὴν δόξαν, tēn doxan) the Father gave the Son. This isn't merely future glory but present participation in Christ's divine life. The purpose: **that they may be one** (ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν, hina ōsin hen), modeled on Trinitarian unity: **even as we are one** (καθὼς ἡμεῖς ἔν, kathōs hēmeis hen). Christian unity isn't organizational but ontological—participation in the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) through union with Christ.

This profound prayer reveals that believers' unity flows from sharing Christ's glory—His presence, character, and mission. Division among Christians contradicts our nature as people indwelt by the same Spirit and united to the same Head. True unity requires supernatural transformation, not merely ecumenical agreement.

Historical Context

This is part of Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17) before His arrest. He prayed not only for the eleven disciples but 'for them also which shall believe on me through their word' (17:20)—all future Christians. Church history shows the struggle to maintain unity; divisions reveal how Christians often live below their calling.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does sharing in Christ's glory create the basis for Christian unity rather than mere institutional organization?
2. What does it mean that Christian unity is modeled on Trinitarian unity—distinct persons in perfect communion?
3. How should churches pursue unity while maintaining doctrinal faithfulness—balancing truth and love?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐγὼ	τὴν	δόξαν	ἣν	δέδωκα	μοι	δέδωκα	αὐτοῖς
And	I	^{G3588}	the glory	which	have given	me	have given	them
G2532	G1473		G1391	G3739	G1325	G3427	G1325	G846
ἵνα	ᾧσιν	ἓν	καθὼς	ἡμεῖς	ἓν	ἐσμεν		
that	they may be	one	even as	we	one	are		
G2443	G5600	G1520	G2531	G2249	G1520	G2070		

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 3:18 (Glory): But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

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 1:16 (Parallel theme): And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Ephesians 2:20 (Parallel theme): And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

1 John 3:24 (Parallel theme): And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 1:3 (Parallel theme): That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Mark 6:7 (Parallel theme): And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

John 1:14 (Glory): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (Parallel theme): Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 6:1 (Parallel theme): We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.