

# John 17:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

## Analysis

**I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one** (ἐγὼ ἐν αὐτοῖς καὶ σὺ ἐν ἐμοί, ἵνα ὥσιν τετελειωμένοι εἰς ἐν, egō en autois kai sy en emoi, hina ōsin teteleiōmenoi eis hen)—The chain of union: Father in Son, Son in believers, creating perfect unity. τετελειωμένοι (teteleiōmenoi, 'perfected, made complete') indicates process toward completeness εἰς ἐν (eis hen, 'into one'). **And that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me** (καὶ ἵνα γινώσκῃ ὁ κόσμος ὅτι σὺ με ἀπέστειλας καὶ ἡγάπησας αὐτοὺς καθὼς ἐμὲ ἡγάπησας, kai hina ginōskē ho kosmos hoti sy me apesteilas kai ēgapēsas autous kathōs eme ēgapēsas)—Christian unity authenticates Jesus's mission and reveals God's love to the world.

This staggering claim: the world recognizes Christ's divine mission through believers' supernatural unity. When the church displays loving unity amidst diversity, it witnesses to the reality of Jesus's incarnation and the Father's love. Conversely, church divisions undermine evangelistic credibility. The Father loves believers **as** He loves the Son—adopting us into His family.

## Historical Context

The early church's unity attracted converts: 'Behold, how they love one another!' (Tertullian reports). When Christians transcended ethnic, social, and economic divisions (Galatians 3:28), it demonstrated supernatural transformation. Modern

church divisions—denominational, racial, class-based—hinder evangelistic impact by contradicting Jesus's prayer.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christian unity (or disunity) serve as evidence for or against the gospel's truth claims?
2. What does it mean that God loves believers 'as' He loves Christ—how should this transform our self-understanding?
3. How can local churches pursue the unity Jesus prayed for while avoiding compromise of biblical truth?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐγὼ ἐν αὐτοὺς καὶ σύ ἐν ἐμοί ἵνα ὄσιν  
I in them and thou in me that they may be  
G1473 G1722 G846 G2532 G4771 G1722 G1698 G2443 G5600

τετελειωμένοι εἰς ἐν καὶ ἵνα γινώσκῃ ὁ κόσμος ὅτι  
made perfect in one and that may know the world that  
G5048 G1519 G1520 G2532 G2443 G1097 G3588 G2889 G3754

σύ με ἀπέστειλας καὶ ἡγάπησας αὐτοὺς καθὼς ἐμὲ  
thou me hast sent and hast loved them as me  
G4771 G3165 G649 G2532 G25 G846 G2531 G1691

ἡγάπησας  
hast loved  
G25

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 17:21** (Parallel theme): That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

**John 16:27** (Love): For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

**1 John 3:1** (Love): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

**John 13:35** (Love): By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Colossians 3:14** (Love): And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

**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.

**John 17:24** (Love): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

**John 17:26** (Love): And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

**1 Peter 5:10** (Parallel theme): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

**1 Corinthians 1:30** (Creation): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

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