

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 ᾧσιν τετελειωμένοι εἰς ἓν, 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 ἓν (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 ἠγάπησας αὐτοὺς καθὼς ἐμὲ ἠγάπησας, 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

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

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

ἐγὼ	ἐν	αὐτοὺς	καὶ	σύ	ἐν	ἐμοί	ἵνα	ᾧσιν
I	in	them	and	thou	in	me	that	they may be
G1473	G1722	G846	G2532	G4771	G1722	G1698	G2443	G5600
τετελειωμένοι	εἰς	ἓν	καὶ	ἵνα	γινώσκη	ὁ	κόσμος	ὅτι
made perfect	in	one	and	that	may know	G3588	the world	that
G5048	G1519	G1520	G2532	G2443	G1097		G2889	G3754
σύ	με	ἀπέστειλας	καὶ	ἠγάπησας	αὐτοὺς	καθὼς	ἐμέ	
thou	me	hast sent	and	hast loved	them	as	me	
G4771	G3165	G649	G2532	G25	G846	G2531	G1691	
ἠγάπησας								
hast loved								
G25								

Additional Cross-References

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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