

# JESUS PRAYED FOR FUTURE BELIEVERS

## JOHN 17:20–26

### *Introduction*

Jesus prayed for future believers, for all those who would believe in Him from that moment to the end of the world. What He prayed is very precious to believers, but it is also an indictment against believers of every generation (see *Glory, Unity*, Jn. 17:23).

I. Jesus prayed for all future believers - for all who would believe the Word (v. 20).

II. Request 1: that believers may be one (vv. 21-22).

III. Request 2: that believers may be perfected in unity (v. 23).

IV. Request 3: that believers may be with Him in glory (v. 24).

V. Request 4: that believers may be filled with God's love (vv. 25-26).

### **I. *John 17:20 Jesus Prayed for Future Believers***

Jesus prayed for future believers, for all those who would believe the message of the early disciples. This is most precious. Jesus prayed for us — for you and for me — for all of us who believe today. Just think for a moment. Who is the weakest believer on earth today? Who is the strongest? Of course only God knows, but think of the preciousness of the fact: Jesus prayed for every one of us...

- for the weakest as well as for the strongest
- for the diseased as well as for the healthy
- for the orphan as well as for the children of the family
- for the widow and widower as well as for the couple
- for the prisoner as well as for the free
- for the believer in the darkest jungle as well as for the believer in the limelight

There is no thought any more precious than the thought that Jesus prayed for us all — every one of us who believe today.

Note: this verse gives the three essentials for men to become believers.

1. There is the messenger of God, the disciple of Christ, the person who proclaims the Word so that men *can believe* in the name of Jesus. There has to be a messenger to carry and proclaim the message.

**Rom 10:14** *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*

**2 Cor 5:20-21** *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

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*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

2. There is God's Word. The messenger is *God's messenger, His ambassador*. Therefore, the Word he takes to the world is God's Word. Note the references to God's Word in this chapter alone.

**John 17:6** *"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word."*

**John 17:4** *"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."*

**John 17:17** *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

3. There is belief. We must believe the Word. We are the Lord's disciples today because we believe the Word (see *Perfect*, Jn. 2:24).

**John 5:24** *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

**John 6:63** *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

**John 8:51** *"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."*

## II. **John 17:21–22 Jesus Prayed for Our Unity**

First, Jesus requested that we may be one. This is critical, the imperative that absolutely must exist between believers. It is the central theme of Jesus' prayer (vv. 11, 21, 22, 23). Believers *must be one*. Note exactly what Jesus said.

1. The standard for unity is the *oneness* between Jesus and His Father. Believers are to be one just as the Father and Jesus are one. The very same kind of unity they have is to be the unity existing between us. (See *Unity of Believers*, Jn. 17:11.)

2. The purpose for unity is that the world may *believe* that the Father sent Jesus.

⇒ God sent Jesus. Jesus is the Apostle of God. He is God's Ambassador, God's perfect Spokesman. It should be noted that God poured out His Spirit *without measure or limit* upon Jesus — the only apostle upon whom this was ever done.

**John 7:29** *"But I know him because I am from him and he sent me."*

**John 8:42** *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me."* (see Jn. 6:38; 10:36)

⇒ Jesus came that men might have life and have it to the full, have it more abundantly.

**John 10:10** *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

**John 5:24** “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”

⇒ A divided witness confuses the issue and cannot stand, just as a divided house and kingdom cannot stand (see Mt. 12:25). There are not many messages nor many ways to God. There is only one message and one way.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (see Rom. 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18)

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (see 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 8:6; 9:5, 24; 12:24; 1 Jn. 2:1)

Another approach to what Jesus is saying is this. Believers must *be one*: be unified, of one spirit and mind in proclaiming the central message of the gospel.

⇒ There is only one central message: that God sent Jesus “out of” heaven into the world.

⇒ There is only one request of men: to believe that God did send Jesus into the world.

⇒ There is only one mission: that men be one (unified) in proclaiming the message of the glorious gospel.

**Thought 1.** A terrible tragedy! There are many voices proclaiming so many different messages, messages of...

- works
- ritual and ceremony
- denominationalism
- rules and regulations
- morality
- false prophets
- humanism
- brotherhood
- secularism

3. The source of unity is God’s glory, the very glory which Jesus Himself possessed. (See *Glory*, Jn. 17:22) It is the glory of God given to believers that unites believers and makes them one with Jesus and His Father and one with each other. When believers *experience* the glory of God, they become one in being, character, and purpose. Their lives are given to each other to help one another ...

- to be the new creature God has made them.
- to live as new creatures should, holy and righteous and pure.
- to proclaim the glorious message that God has sent His Son into the world.

## JOHN 17:11 UNITY OF BELIEVERS

*“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one.”*

***John 17:11***

Believers are to be one just as Jesus and the Father are one. The unity between believers is to be as strong as the unity between Jesus and His Father. This is a phenomenal truth, a truth that consumed the Lord’s thoughts. It was the very theme of Jesus’ prayer (vv. 11, 21, 22 , 23). Believers must be one. Note two points.

Believers are in an extremely divisive world, a world full of...

- prejudice                      • competition                      • lust                                      • selfishness
- egotism                              • hurt                                      • angry spirits                      • possessiveness
- pride                                      • self-praise                      • hate                                      • war

The list is unlimited, for divisiveness comes from the depraved nature of man, the nature that Christ came to change and to convert to love. The divisive world was a threat to the early disciples. Being in the world, they could have been influenced and led astray in the ways of divisiveness. Jesus had to pray for them, for God to keep them together as one.

Note Jesus’ request. It is an eye-opener, an astounding request: “That they may be one, *as we are one.*” Believers are to be as unified as God and Christ are. What does this mean? It means that we are to have the *same kind* of unity that Jesus and the Father have. We are to be one in *nature, character, and purpose.*

a. Believers are to be one in nature. The believer is a person who...

- has been “born again” (See *Born Again*, Jn. 3:1-15 (B25-6). See Jn. 1:13; Tit. 3:5; 1 Jn. 2:29; 4:7).

***1 Pet 1:23*** *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

***1 John 5:1*** *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.*

- has been made into a “new creation,” become a “new self” or “new man” (see Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).

***2 Cor 5:17*** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

- has become a partaker of the “divine nature.”

*2 Pet 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

However, the nature of believers includes more than just a personal rebirth of one’s spirit. When a man becomes a believer, his new nature makes him a member of God’s...

- new body of people

*Eph 2:16 And in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

- new nation

*Eph 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.*

- new temple

*Eph 2:21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*

- new family

*Eph 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household.*

- new fellowship or church

*Eph 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

- new building

*Eph 2:20-22 Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

- new race

The believer is not to walk as the Gentiles, that is, as ungodly men. The believers are set apart from Gentiles. They are no longer classified as Gentiles or Jews (cp. 1 Cor. 10:32). They are *a third race on earth*. They are the *new creation*; the creation of a *new body* of people, a *new nation*, a *new race* distinct from the Gentiles. He is no longer to walk as the Gentiles walk. (Eph. 4: 17-19).

**Eph 4:17** *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.*

This, of course, means that a believer is to live and walk in unity with other believers. He is not to allow the divisive spirit of the world to infiltrate his life: grumbling, griping, complaining, criticizing, envying, gossiping, opposing, by-passing, overlooking, ignoring, isolating.

b. Believers are to be one in character. They are...

- to be godly and holy, denying the works of the flesh (sinful nature) and living pure lives even as Jesus and His Father are one in their holy Being and Life.

**Titus 2:12-13** *It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**1 Pet 1:15-16** *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

**2 Pet 1:5-7** *For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

**2 Pet 2:9** *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

**Gal 5:19-21** *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- to bear the fruit of the Spirit.

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

c. Believers are to be one in purpose. They are to surrender and give all they are and have to minister and proclaim the message of salvation to a lost and dying world, a world reeling in desperate need. Believers are to give all for the salvation of the world just as Jesus and the Father gave all for the salvation of the world.

**2 Cor 5:20** *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**John 20:21** Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

**Mat 20:28** "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." □

## JOHN 17: 22 GLORY AND UNITY

*"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me."* **John 17:22**

This is a significant verse dealing with the glory of the believer. Note the points made by Christ.

=> God gave glory to His Son Jesus Christ.

=> Jesus has given the very *same* glory to believers. The purpose of salvation is to gain and share in the glory of Christ (2 Th. 2:14).

=> It is the glory of God that brings unity to believers, that causes them to surround God and live and work together to please Him.

**Rom 12:5** *So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

**1 Cor 10:17** *Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.*

**Gal 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

**Eph 4:13** *Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

What is the glory of God that He gave to Christ and that Christ in turn gives to believers?

*The glory of Christ is...*

- the glory of righteousness that He secured by living a perfect life. Jesus became the Perfect and Ideal Man because He was perfectly obedient to God, even in dying. The glory of God was the perfect obedience of Jesus — the supreme obedience of Jesus dying on the cross. Again God's love was perfectly demonstrated on the cross. He gave his *only* Son to pay the supreme price *for* man (Jn. 13:31-32).
- the glory of the cross. It was to be by death that He was to gain the allegiance of men and be exalted as King. (Jn. 12:23-26; 12:27-30).

- the glory of the resurrection that brought victory over death and hell (Jn. 13:31-32).
- the glory of the ascension and exaltation. Jesus lived in a preexistent, eternal state and glory with God. When He came to earth as Man Jesus set all His glory aside. He now returned to the Father and His former glory was restored. (Jn. 17:5-8).

*The glory of the believer is...*

- the glory of righteousness that Christ gives to the believer by faith. Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man. This is seen in the picture painted by the words, “You shall see *heaven open*, and the angels of God *ascending* and descending on the Son on Man” (Jn. 1 :51). This is a picture of Jacob’s ladder (Gen 28:10-22). It is a picture of open access into the very presence of God; the door of heaven is open and the angels are *ascending from earth* to heaven. Jesus is saying that He is Jacob’s ladder. He is the open door to heaven. He is the One who reaches from earth to heaven, the One by whom man has his communication carried up to heaven.
- the glory of the cross that gives to the believer both forgiveness of sins and the privilege of serving God Himself: the privilege of sacrificing all he is and has to God in order to reach a lost and desperate world. It was by death that He was to gain the allegiance of men. Men would become His subjects because He had died for them and given them the eternal inheritance with God the Father.
- the glory of the resurrection that gives the believer a new life in Christ. The believer is immersed, placed into, or identified with Christ in His resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5). The same picture of baptism is used again to strike home this glorious truth. God counts the true baptized believer as having been raised in Christ. God takes the believer’s faith (and baptism) and counts the person as participating in Christ’s resurrection. He counts and considers the person .....  
=> to be raised in Christ’s resurrection.  
=> to be placed onto Christ’s resurrection.  
=> to be identified with Christ’s resurrection.  
=> to be a partaker of Christ’s resurrection.  
=> to be in union with Christ’s resurrection.  
=> to be bound with Christ in His resurrection.
- the glory of living eternally in the presence of God and of being exalted to serve Him by ruling and reigning with His Son Jesus Christ forever. (See Jn. 14:2-3; Rom 8:16-17; Tit. 2:12-13; 3:7.) □



### **III. *John 17:23 Jesus Prayed that Believers be Perfected in Unity***

Second, Jesus requested that believers be *perfected* in unity, perfected as one body, that they “be brought to complete unity.” This stresses beyond question the absolute necessity that believers live in unity. The world has not been reached for Christ — millions have been lost — because believers have not been unified enough to penetrate the world with the gospel. This is the terrible indictment against believers. The problem is certainly not God. He is willing and He is loving and powerful enough to use believers to reach the whole world. The problem is unquestionably believers, and as Jesus made pointedly clear in this verse, the problem is our love for one another.

The concern of Jesus is that we be *perfected* in one. (See Perfect, Jn. 17:23.) Note two things.

1. The believer’s source of unity is the Indwelling Presence of Christ within his life. Note that God is in Christ; therefore, the presence of Christ *in the believer* means that God dwells “in” the believer. The believer actually partakes of the divine nature of God (2 Pet. 1:4). Jesus is One with the Father, and the Father is One with Him (Jn. 10:37-39). They are on one Mind and Spirit, one being and one nature, one purpose and work. (See Jn. 14:10; 14:18-20; 14:23-24.)

**John 14:20** “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

**John 14:23** Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

**John 17:23** “I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

**Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Eph 3:17** So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.

**Col 1:27** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**1 John 3:24** Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**Rev 3:20** Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

2. The purpose for a perfected unity is that the world may *know* that God sent Jesus into the world to save it. Now note a significant point: there is a difference each time

Jesus prays for unity in this chapter. And each difference or point proclaims a strong message to the believer. There is...

- the *unity of God's name*, of calling upon God's name to keep believers from a divided world and its divisive influence (v. 11).
- the *unity of God's protective power*, of calling upon God's power to deliver believers from the evil of the world and the devil (v. 15).
- the *unity of witness*, that the world may believe that God sent Christ. They will believe through a unified witness (v. 21).
- the *unity of love*, that the world may know that God sent Christ. They will know through a unified love (v. 23).

There is a world of difference between a unity of witness and a unity of love. The world may come to believe the gospel by a unified witness for Christ, but the only way the world can ever know the gospel is by a *unified love* among believers. Note two things.

- a. What the world needs more than anything else is love, a great demonstration of love from a massive multitude of people. (See 1 Cor. 13:4-7 for the behaviour and acts of love, and think about the enormous impact we could make upon the world if we really were unified in love.)
- b. The love needed among believers is a different love from the *so-called love* of the world. The love needed is a sacrificial love that will give all it *is and has* to minister to a world that is reeling under the weight of starving, diseased, and dying masses of people. The new commandment to love *as Christ loved* (Jn. 13:34). The old commandment is "Love your neighbour as yourself." It is not a human, neighbourly love that is being commanded. This *new commandment* is given to *disciples only*. It is the spiritual love that is to exist between believers as brothers and sisters and servants of God who minister together.

**1 John 3:16** *This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.*

**John 13:34-35** *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

**Rom 5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

#### IV. *John 17:24 Assurance of Glory to the Believers*

Third, Jesus requested that believers may with Him in glory. (Jn. 17:5-8; 14:1-3.)

**John 14:2-3** *“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**2 Cor 5:1-2** *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.*

**Col 1:5** *The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel.*

**Rev 7:9** *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

**Rev 22:14** *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.”*

#### JOHN 17:23 PERFECT – PERFECTED (TELELOS)

*“I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”* **John 17:23**

The idea of perfection is perfection of purpose. It has to do with an end, an aim, a goal, a purpose. It means fit, mature, fully grown at a particular stage of growth. For example, a fully grown child is a perfect child; he has reached the height of childhood, achieved the purpose of childhood. The word “complete” does not mean perfection of character, that is, being without sin. It is fitness, maturity for task and purpose. It is full development, maturity of godliness. (See Phil. 3:12; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10.)

The Bible reveals three stages of perfection or completion.

1. Saving perfection. Christ’s death has guaranteed forever the perfection and redemption of those set apart for God (Heb. 10:14).
2. Progressive or maturing perfection. God reveals anything that is contrary to His purpose, and the believer is expected to clean it up (Phil. 3:13-15, esp. 15). The believer’s “perfect holiness” (2 Cor. 7:1) is now trying to “attain [his] goal” (Gal. 3:3). As a member of the church the believer is experiencing “the preparing of God’s people” (Eph. 4:12; Col. 4:12; Heb. 13:21; Jas. 1:4; 1 Jn. 4:17-18).

3. Redemptive or resurrected perfection. The believer's purpose and aim is to "attain to the resurrection from the dead....[to be] perfect" (Phil. 3:11-12).

The Lord's point is that the mature believer will do good and show kindness to all men, both good and bad men. He is mature in heart when he shows love to his enemies as well as to his friends. The love of God and of Christ are the believer's example of perfected love (Jn. 13:33-35; 21:15-17). □

## ***V. John 17:25–26 Jesus Prayed, the Believers be Filled with God's Love***

The conclusion of Jesus' prayer is a request that believers may be filled with God's love. It is also a striking testimony.

1. Jesus declared that the world did not know God. Jesus was the revelation of God; therefore, all who saw Jesus saw God. Yet the world rejected Him, refusing to know Him.

The world hates believers because it does not really know God (Jn. 15:19-24). The whole world conceives God to be the One who fulfils their earthly desires and lusts (Jn. 6:2, 26). Man's idea of God is that of a Supreme Grandfather who protects and provides and gives no matter what a person's behaviour is, just so the behaviour is not too far out. The world believes that God (the Supreme Grandfather) will accept and work all things out in the final analysis. However, the true believer teaches against this, proclaiming that God is both loving and just. God does love us, but He demands righteousness from us. The world, of course, rebels against this concept of God.

***Rom 10:3*** *Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.*

***Eph 4:18*** *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

***Jer 5:4*** *I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for they do not know the way of the Lord, the requirements of their God.*

***Micah 4:12*** *But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, he who gathers them like sheaves to the threshing floor.*

Jesus declared that He knew God. He was eternal and had always existed with God. He was the Son of God Himself. (See Jn. 17:5-8.)

***Mat 11:27*** *"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."*

***John 8:55*** *"Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word."*

**John 7:29** “But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

**John 10:15** “Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

**John 17:25** “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.”

Jesus declared that believers down through the centuries did know God and that they knew God had sent Christ. The men now knew that Jesus was the Son of God, the very revelation of God Himself. They knew “everything” which He had were given by God (Jn. 17:7). They knew that He was the very embodiment and revelation on God. It was the resurrection that would confirm all He had been telling them.

**John 7:29** “But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

**John 8:42** Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”

**John 10:36** “What about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God’s Son’?”

**John 17:21** “That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

2. Jesus’ faithfulness was a strong testimony.

⇒ He declared and revealed God to men and would continue to do so (Jn. 14:6).

⇒ His purpose was that men might *know* the love of God and *have* the love of God dwelling in them. (See Jn. 17:23.)

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**Rom 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**1 John 3:23** And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ■