

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2021
For Community Groups or Personal Study

Into a troubled world, full of division and mistrust, God arrived, in person, in Jesus. He was not of this world ... He was, and is, its Creator. We live in a troubled world, filled with division and mistrust. Do we belong to this world? Is this world our source of hope? Do we arrange our priorities based on the values of the world in which we live? As we move further into our study of the 2021 Church we are seeking to understand who we belong to and how that impacts our life. God's call for unity among Christians pushes against the divisiveness in the world around us. Unity among Christians, including those of us here at Grace of Christ, is not optional, it is expected. Even when Christians gather in different locations, if we are genuine in our desire to love Him, follow Him, honor Him, we will passionately pursue unity. Christian unity is not about personal preferences, it is built on the understanding that what connects us, unifies us, defines us, is stronger, bigger, more important, than anything attempting to pull us apart. Unity for us is all about Jesus.

At Grace we are called to love and respect others. So much so that we willingly give up what we prefer in order to love those around us. At the center of EVERYTHING is this world's One savior, and ours, Jesus.

2021.CHURCH

SERMON PASSAGE: JOHN 17:11-19

"And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Chapters 12-18 in John's gospel (gospel = good news) cover a one-week period of time beginning with Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem

and ending with His betrayal by a friend and arrest by leaders of the church. The first communion (Lord's Supper) is found in chapter 13, parables and teachings fill most of the rest. Chapter 17 is a prayer. It is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. He offered this prayer for his friends and followers, and for "all who would believe in Him because of their word". We believe because of their word. That means this prayer is for us too!

1. Re-read John 17, verses 11-19. Write down any questions you have from reading these verses. What is the main focus of this section of Jesus' prayer?
2. How does what will happen in the next few chapters (Jesus' death and then resurrection from the dead) help us understand Jesus when He prays, "I am no longer in the world but they are in the world."?
3. As Jesus prays, what is He asking for on behalf of His followers, us included?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does Jesus mean when He prays that those who are His will be "in" the world but not "of" the world?
5. How would you define the word "world" as Jesus is using it here? Does the "world" hate Jesus and those who are Christians? Examples yes or no? What does this mean?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. If you are a Christian, what are ways you are "in" the world but not "of" the world? If you are not a Christian how would becoming a Christian put you at odds with the priorities of the "world"?
7. How are you moving towards unity with others in your life?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a minute or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. In your prayer ask God to help you live peaceably with others, and to help to be a source of peace in your family, your friendships, your community and world. Ask Him to give you confidence that you belong to Him as He re-orders your priorities. He will help you!