DELIGHTING IN THE TRINITY

John 17:1-5 (NIV)

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.
2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.
3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.
5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

John 17:1-5 (NLT)

1 After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you.
2 For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him.
3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.
4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.
5 Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

In these first 5 verses, we are privileged to overhear an intimate conversation with the Godhead. Christianity is the only religion who believe that God is triune; that God is one being, eternally existing in 3 persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- all equally God, and who know and love one another. And this is the only place in the Bible where we get a glimpse of the inner life of the Triune God. What we have here is the Son speaking to the Father about the relationship they had in eternity past, and eternity future. And so, we have a brief glimpse into the inner life of the Trinity. It's an awesome and profound conversation! In it we have insight into what the Triune God all about and as a result, what is life is intended to be about.

Questions to Ponder and Discuss

1. The key word in these verses is *glory*. It's mentioned 5 times. How would you define glory?

2. In these verses, Jesus talks about 3 kinds of glory, a past glory, a present glory, and a future glory. What do learn in these verses about the relationship of the Trinity from all eternity?

3. Jesus says, *Father the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.* When Jesus talks about his hour, he is talking about his crucifixion. Now it seems like Jesus is saying, As soon as I'm crucified, give me my glory back. But what he is talking about is the ultimate display of God's glory is not after the shame of the cross, but in the shame of the cross. What Jesus is saying is the ultimate display of God's glory is in the crucifixion. What are implications of that for us today as believers?