

Glory  
John 17:1-26  
Bethany Assembly of God  
5.5.2024

**Central Proposition: We can experience the glory of God.**

**Introduction**

Today's text, John 17, gives us a glimpse into Jesus' prayer life as He prays for His disciples and the future Church. I believe that glory is the overarching or unifying theme that runs throughout. Glory describes value, splendor, or beauty, so to glorify someone is either to reveal or magnify those qualities or to honor them by bestowing praise on them. In this prayer, Jesus asks the Father to glorify Him just as He glorified the Father. Jesus also says that He has given us glory like the Father gave to Him. Does that mean we get to avoid difficulty and suffering? No. Jesus' hour of glorification involved suffering. To reveal the character of God to the world—the love and beauty and glory of God—meant suffering and dying. And Jesus shares that with us. That suffering is part of sanctification and our mission to reveal Jesus to the world. But the glory into which Jesus invites us also comes with astounding gifts: the presence of God, unity with believers, sanctification, and participation in Jesus' mission.

**1. We should participate in His presence.** See John 17:3, 19-23, 26.

It's not easy to quantify what we mean when we say that we sense the presence of God, but if Jesus says that we can know God, that we will be "in God" and that He will make God's name known to us so that His love will be in us, we should expect to experience God's presence. When God is present, we may experience conviction, reassuring joy, an increased sense of love for our Christian family, or a deep sense of God's love for us.

**2. We should treasure unity.** See John 17:11, 19-23 and 1 John 3.

The unity that Jesus desires for His followers is not based on our moral efforts or on shared backgrounds or interests. It's based on the presence of Jesus in us through the Holy Spirit. We are united in Christ because Christ is in us. This unity comes out through reciprocal love. John wrote about this in the letter we know as 1 John. As a church, we want to be united in purpose, moving in the same direction so that we can accomplish God's purposes for us. For Christ followers, unity is expressed through love.

**3. We should submit to sanctification.** See John 17:4, 6-8, 14-19, 26.

If you're not familiar with the word "sanctification," it's the process through which your life is progressively set apart for God. Jesus' whole life was set apart for the Father. His whole life was offered to God the Father. You are holy, that is, set apart for the Lord. Sanctification is the process by which that is realized in our hearts and actions.

**4. We should engage in the mission.** See John 17:18.

Jesus sends you into the world just as the Father sent Him into the world. That means you're not here by chance. Jesus came to reveal the glory of God and He sends us into the world to do the same. That's the mission.

**Conclusion**

Jesus prayed that we might experience God's glory expressed through the gifts of the presence of God, unity with believers, sanctification, and participation in Jesus' mission. As with Jesus, that glory involves some suffering through discipline that leads to sanctification, humble service to the church in love, and loving our enemies and doing good to those who persecute us. These things reveal the great worth of God to the world. But there is another side to the coin; it's not all suffering. We experience the presence of God personally, we know the joy of being conformed to His

image, we gain the love of the Church as we are united with them, and we rejoice as others come to recognize God's glory through us.