



Sermon: Sunday, June 8, 2025

“God’s Love and Jesus Christ

SCRIPTURE: John 17:20-26 ²⁰“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, 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. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵“Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.”

Introduction: Jesus prays for all believers

Today is Pentecost Sunday. John chapter 17 is the confession, prayer, testimony, and praise of early Christians who fully experienced God's love through Jesus Christ. Today's passage is from the second half of John 17, verses 20 to 26. This is a prayer that Jesus offered to God. And this prayer is also for us who are worshipping here together today.

In verse 20, Jesus prays, **“As you, Father, 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.” (John 17:21, NRSV)**

This verse is abstract and may be hard for us to understand. To help us understand it, let me explain with a simple example. Think of a mother caring for her newborn baby. The mother sees herself and her baby as one. Even though the baby cannot speak, the baby also feels that the mother is one with them. When we say the mother and baby are one, we do not mean physically, but relationally.

In the same way, Jesus' words are not about physical unity but about relationship. It means that Jesus and God are perfectly united in love. That is why the disciples and early Christians were able to confess that Jesus is the only Son of God. But what made them believe that Jesus and God are truly one?

According to today's passage, the reason Jesus could say He is one with God is because He had fully experienced God's perfect love. The reason the passage keeps repeating that God loved Jesus is because of this. So verse 24 says, **“Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24, NRSV)**

In this way, Jesus' teaching and actions in this passage are directly connected to the love of God. Of course, the Jewish leaders at that time also taught about God's love. But the love they spoke about was not the same as what Jesus revealed. The love they taught applied only to people who were seen as deserving. But the love Jesus experienced from God was unlimited—it extended even to tax collectors, sinners, and enemies.

Body: The limitless love of God

Even today, there are strong powers in the world that try to limit God's love. These powers are so strong that they even influence our unconscious minds. The forces that limit God's love often appear very refined and attractive. One simple example is the message: **“You must make a lot of money to be happy.”** This is one of the most seductive ideas in today's world.

But don't think of the idea that God's love has no limits as something too difficult. It is a very practical truth. Let me use an example about a home. Imagine a family that moves into a luxurious apartment in



Manhattan with a beautiful view. At first, they may feel proud and excited. But not long after, those feelings fade. The joy of moving into a fancy home does not last forever.

Now imagine another family who rents a small house. The house may be small and a bit uncomfortable, but they can still enjoy reading deeply, watching the night sky through the window, or drinking tea together and talking peacefully.

I'm sharing this example to show that the love of God, which fills us with life, is not limited by human conditions. **The important question is this: Are we truly experiencing this love of God in our daily lives?**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the world we live in is full of God's creative power and glory. If you don't feel it, try fasting for just one week. Then you will discover how delicious even one meal is. Try covering both eyes and living that way for just a week. You will feel deeply thankful just to be able to see the world again. We can only truly experience God's love and the meaning of life when we stand before the love of Jesus on the cross.

So then, does that mean those who are rich, healthy, or enjoy many pleasures cannot feel God's love? This is a hard question to answer clearly, but in general, it is true that they may have a harder time. That is because successful people are often trained by a mindset that worships success.

In the Gospels, we read about a rich man who came to Jesus but left in sorrow after being told to give up his wealth. This shows how difficult it can be for the wealthy to go deeper into Christian faith.

So those who live in comfort and plenty must work even harder to go deeper into the Christian life. They must realize not only that their money is not their own, but even their life is not truly theirs. They must clearly see that we cannot receive God's love or true happiness through our possessions.

If their spiritual eyes open, they can stop being slaves to wealth and live confidently as stewards of life.

Verse 24 in today's passage teaches us something very important. It tells us that the love God had for Jesus before the world was made is His true glory. This means the greatest glory is to accept God's love with all our soul. Glory here means the highest form of happiness, freedom, and peace.

Do you want to become a glorious person like this? There is no other way. Go deeper into the limitless love of God. We all want to live like this, but it's not easy. Why? Because we are afraid of the powers in the world that limit and distort God's love. These powers blind our spiritual eyes. This fear comes from not having truly experienced God's love. That is why we are tempted by the evil but sweet voices of the world. So what should we do?

Conclusion: God's love and Jesus Christ

I can tell you one thing clearly. The only way to enter God's love is through unity with Jesus Christ. Jesus could say He is one with God because He had completely entered the love of God.

The last verse of today's passage, verse 26, says: **"I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."** (John 17:26, NRSV)

The only way we can know and experience the love of God—free from the limits of this world—is to become one with Jesus Christ. This is the mystery of our Christian faith.

Dear beloved congregation, when someone knows the love of God shown through Jesus, and is captured by its power, they live each day like a person who has found treasure hidden in a field. Whether others notice or not, they are not ruled by their circumstances but live with joy in every moment. Let us all become Christians like that. **Amen!**

