

One

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WITH THE

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Father

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# **One with the Father**

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This monograph on John 12-17 has been prepared for those who thirst after a deeper relationship with the Father. Christ himself called it being “one with the Father” as Christ was one with the Father.

The Apostle Paul described our relationship with Christ and the Father somewhat differently. He talked about having our mind renewed or having the “mind of Christ.” Christ’s own words in John 12-17 illuminate new facets of this unique relationship with Christ and the Father.

Kay Arthur, founder of Precepts Ministries, says in a devotional study guide entitled How To Have Oneness in Your Relationships part II on page 35, “God’s ultimate goal for every one of His children is oneness with Him.” “Oneness is to be achieved in all of life’s everydayness, in all its relationships, in all its trials. Everything that happens to you is permitted by a sovereign God to draw you into oneness with Him.”

In Christ’s day and during subsequent centuries, it was often impoverished and “ordinary folks” who invested themselves in this unique relationship. They transformed lives and even entire nations.

Much like a gardener lingers to appreciate the smells and beauty of his garden, so people who are “one with the Father” linger. They savor the moments with the Father born of this unique relationship that God designed for mankind on this planet. What more could we ask in this life than to be

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**“one with the Father?”**

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# Authors Note

In the early days, it was enough for Christ to be my Savior. God's love and Christ's willingness to limit the creator by putting himself into this human container awed me. Have you seen the PEPSI advertisement on the beach where they suck the child into the PEPSI bottle? I wondered whether Christ felt a little like that when he became a human being.

## **What happens when the infinite becomes finite?**

When I matured beyond a preoccupation with salvation, I needed Jesus as a friend, someone who would listen to my problems if not solve them. This relationship sufficed for many years.

However, there came a day when more often than not my prayers were answered negatively. Soon, I stopped praying. Wise counselors told me that God always answers prayer; however, it is YES, NO or WAIT. I still have not found the Biblical basis for that position although it is a popular view of prayer.

Along side this experience, I discovered that my idol had been my profession. I was not a workaholic but my identity and self-worth were derived from my work-related positions and relationships. I had success and even significance. But it was not enough. There was still a big black hole in my life. It was deep. It was dark. I ached.

*Infinite to  
finite*

*I ached!*

In 1987, God removed the last vestige of human support systems. I found myself walking around the neighborhood and listening to two persistent questions from God.

**Do you love Me?**

**Am I sufficient?**

***Am I sufficient?***

The answers did not come quickly. My simple and typical view of Christ and the Father did not provide room for this kind of God. After several hours of wrestling, the answer was “YES.” It was an unqualified and unconditional “YES.” It was a “YES.” in the spirit of Romans 12:1-2.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

But what was my mind to be transformed into?

# One with the Father

“...that they may be one as we are one:  
I in them and you in me.”

**John 17:22**

Christ restored the human race to its originally intended relationship with God the Father. Christ characterized this relationship as being “one with the Father as I am one with the Father.”

How would you describe your restored relationship with God the Father?

- Slave to Master
- Bond Servant to Master
- Son or Daughter to Father
- Friend to Friend
- Husband to Wife or Wife to Husband

All these descriptions may be true of our relationships to God. However, in John 12-17, Jesus Christ describes God’s singular purpose as bringing us into the highest quality relationship possible, “one with the Father” as Christ was one with the Father. In fact, Christ prayed that both His disciples and future believers would be “one with the Father.”

Awesome! Could this really be true? Over several years, being “one with the Father” became a reality.

*Can you describe a more intimate relationship than being “one with the Father?”*

Oneness is defined as:<sup>1</sup>

1. The quality or state of being one; singleness.
2. Singularity; uniqueness.
3. The condition of being undivided; wholeness.
4. Sameness of character

“One with the Father.” But what does it mean?

Some people believe that oneness implies perfection. There is no biblical basis to believe that Christ meant either perfection or becoming God.

Being one is knowing the Father as Christ knew the Father. Below are two analogies that are often used to describe our relationship to the Father.

**Being a son or daughter** You can be a son and not be one (being in agreement) with your father.

**Being one with a spouse** You can have physical intimacy and not be one emotionally.

The best analogy that Christ gives us to characterize being “one with the Father” is

**The Vine and the Branch in John 15:** The branch must accept the sap to survive and bear fruit.

*Oneness is not perfection.*

*The branch must accept the sap to survive or bear fruit.*

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# Designed To Be One

“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Genesis 1:26

***“...In our image, in our likeness...”***

God created mankind “...in our image, in our likeness...” Many living and heavenly creatures have a relationship with the Father. We are the only living entity in creation designed to accept in us and manifest through us the essence of Christ and God the Father. (John 17:20-23)

God desires that we have a relationship which Christ describes as being “one with the Father.” In fact, Christ prayed that His disciples and future believers would experience being “one with the Father” in John 17.

Mankind had designed into its DNA the ability to relate to God in a fashion that surpasses even being God’s friend. It is true that God would talk periodically to Adam and that would be a privilege for anyone. However, it was intended that mankind would mature spiritually into a deeper relationship with the Father than any external or arms length friendship.

As disciples today, does Christ expect us to exhibit oneness in this life on earth? Or is this a heavenly vision of what mankind can expect in our relationship with God the Father? Is being “one with the Father” available in this present world?

Many observers cast doubt on whether oneness is intended for us today because of the small number of people who exhibit being “one with the Father” in their daily lives. Therefore, it must be for heaven.

People say, “I have not and cannot envision myself as being “one with the Father” in this life.” Moreover, if it were possible, I am not sure that I would choose that life.

That’s the real question, isn’t it?

Many people will accept the “free gift of salvation.” However, most people are not willing to give up their current life for even a life that is characterized as being “one with the Father.”

Christ said in John 17:23,

“...I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity (complete oneness) to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

If oneness is the evidence God uses to let the world know of the Father’s love, then oneness is for here and now. It is for us on earth.

***Is being  
one with  
the Fa-  
ther for  
today?***

# God's Main Plot

If you were to analyze the Bible as a story, what is the main plot? God's single dominant plot in His Bible is:

*God designed and then created man to be "one with the Father."*

*God's story line.*

The plot is not just about a relationship with God but a very high quality relationship. God created mankind with the specific design of becoming "one with the Father." God's design and role for mankind has never changed. Christ's incarnation was fueled out of God's continuing desire to be one with mankind according to Christ. Christ came to save, but also to restore or reconcile man back into the originally intended relationship with God the Father.

The God of Genesis created humanity. God is intent upon developing a relationship with His creation. The important question is what type of relationship did God intend?

If being "one with the Father" is God's primary purpose and design, why are we so reluctant to embrace this relationship with the Father? For some people, it is ignorance of God's intended purpose. For others, it is their unwillingness to sacrifice their existing life and submit it to the Father.

Why our universe? Why heaven and earth? Why Christ as Savior and Lord?

Why has God chosen you and me? Why has He empowered us through the Holy Spirit?

Most of us serve Christ without having the Father's goal clearly in mind. Unless we comprehend God's end and Christ as the primary means to achieving that end, we will labor in vain. Our work will appear acceptable if not exciting to our Christian peers. However, it will have no value to God because we have not first entered into a relationship described as being "...one with the Father as I am one with the Father." This judgement is one that God makes in heaven and Christ describes in Matthew 25:31-46 as sorting out the sheep from the goats.

We fashion a framework for our work based upon our own experiences or the past experiences of others. In reality, we should base our work upon Christ's clearly stated purpose of being "one with the Father." It is the reason God created man. Christ restored us to our originally intended relationship with the Father.

Humans are notorious for tinkering with the unimportant and elevating the particular. We can easily avoid the central purposes of God. Make no bones about it, the God of the Bible is an entity of purposes and goals.

There is a purpose! And God has it clearly in mind.

***Ignorance of God's purpose keeps us impotent.***

# The Final Conversation

## John 12-17

Have you ever considered the final conversation between Christ and the disciples? It is not a lecture.

What is the dominant theme of John 12-17? Is being “one with the Father” really the theme of these six chapters that are filled with questions and dialogue? The disciples actually engage Christ with questions in a fashion that is unprecedented.

The disciples sense that Christ is telling them something important; however, they do not understand (John 12:16). They will not understand until after Pentecost. Out of frustration they make strong statements and ask hard questions:

“No, said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

John 13:8

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

John 14:5

Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

John 14:8

Judas said, “But Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world.”

John 14:22

Can you identify with the disciples?

***“Don’t  
you be-  
lieve...  
that the  
Father is  
in me?”***

Christ knows that He is about to be arrested, crucified, buried and subsequently resurrected from the dead before returning to His heavenly Father. He committed himself to this course of action in Gethsemane. Christ engages the disciples in this final conversation regarding His purpose on earth.

Christ introduces us to the prerequisite for being one in John 12:23-26. In John 14:10-14, Christ picks up the theme and never lets up.

“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. **Rather, it is the Father living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;** or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Is this what it means to be “one with the Father?” Christ has set the standard, the touchstone, for a relationship with God the Father.

Christ prays for His disciples and future believers in John 17: 22.

“...that they may be one as we are one:  
I in them and you in me.”

Nothing short of being one will do for “ordinary folks.” Savior, friend, son/daughter are all-important relationships that we can have with the Father. However, they all fall short of being “one with the Father.” Surely, we can now believe that Christ intended this relationship for ordinary people.

*“...that  
they  
may  
be one  
as we  
are  
one...”*

# Love Is Deep

People frequently say:

**Being one is too ambiguous.**

**I could never understand being one;  
therefore, I could never experience it.**

We need to look at the parallels between love and being one.

**A young child can receive love.**

**A child can also give love.**

**Love does not need to be understood  
to be given or received.**

**Love has many facets.**

**Love is deep.**

Likewise immature believers are connected to the Father. They can decide to allow God to make them “one with the Father.”

**A child can be “one with the Father.”**

**Oneness does not need to  
be understood to be received.**

**Being “one with the Father” has many facets.**

**Being one is as rich and deep as God’s love.**

***You do  
not need  
to un-  
derstand  
oneness  
to expe-  
rience it.***

## “Radical Intuition”

Radical intentional obedience\* is an essential and constant component of Christian maturity. Christ calls us to radical obedience on the day of our salvation and each day thereafter. When Christ was talking to the rich young ruler, He required radical obedience. He was to sell all and follow Christ.

If we are “one with the Father,” we should also have major areas of our lives that become intuition as a result of our radical decision and radical obedience.

A primary benefit of being “one with the Father” is that we can eventually move from radical obedience to radical intuition in many aspects of our lives. I often hear the cry of Christians who really long to have the right intuition. They pursue the disciplines and yet life is frustrating, if not empty.

While not using the word intuition, the Apostle Paul in Romans 7-8, grappled with the difference between an obedient life and an intuitive life. Romans 8 describes a life that is becoming intuitive.

Like Paul, being one will not encompass all areas of your life initially. However, over time there will develop a critical mass so that others will see intuitive behaviors in you that reflect being one.

The formula on the next page reflects the reality that our minds and lives will actually be transformed by the Holy Spirit over time.

*I long to  
have the  
right  
instincts.*

# **One with the Father**

## **John 12-17**

**Radical Decision**  
**for Christ**

**+**

**Radical Obedience\***  
**in Lordship**

**=**

**Radical Intuition**  
**by being one with the Father**

Increasingly, through obedience you will discover major portions of your life committed to intuitive behavior rather than conscious decision making. The most important decisions in life do not always allow us time to decide. We react. It is then that we need the values, perspectives and experiences that can produce the right intuition. It is in times of crisis that we discover who we really have become.

Only you can answer the following questions:

1. Did God really design us to be “one with the Father” as Christ was one with the Father?
2. Is being “one with the Father” for this life or is it only for heaven because of the FALL?
3. If we can be “one with the Father” today, can we also experience the by-products, benefits or promises of Christ described in John 12-17?
4. Am I prepared to live the sacrificed life described in Romans 12:1-2?

If the answers are positive, then your radical decision for Christ coupled with radical obedience can lead to the radical intuition.

**Salvation = Radical Decision**  
**Lordship = Radical Intentional Obedience**  
**Oneness = Radical Intuition**

If Christ's admonition and prayer in John 12-17 for future believers to become "one with the Father" is new to you, then you may be encouraged to know that several authors have dealt with this concept.

**Kay Arthur, founder of Precept Ministries**

Kay Arthur's How to Have Oneness in Your Relationships, Part I & II, Volume II Issue VII & VII, 1988 articulates that all the circumstances of life are permitted to "...draw you into oneness with Him." Kay has powerful concepts for a dynamic world.

**Hannah Whitall Smith, Quaker, rebel & realist**

In her book The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life, chapter 17 is entitled "Oneness with Christ." According to Hannah Smith, "The test of oneness then (for the disciples) was the doing of the same works, and it is the test of oneness now."

**Oswald Chambers, 20th century teacher**

My Utmost for His Highest is a well known devotional. The theme is reflected in the title: My utmost or my life for His Highest or being "one with the Father." Using the index and looking up such words as "oneness with God" and "abiding" will lead you to key passages.

**Rees Howells, 20th century intercessor**

Relatively unknown in America, Rees was a powerful intercessor in Wales during the first half of the 20th century. His biography, Rees Howells: Intercessor, written by Norman Grubb, describes Rees's step by step process of becoming one with God and as a result a powerful intercessor.

# Our Inheritance

After several years of experiencing being “one with the Father” and with Christ, I was talking to a friend about the concept. He challenged me regarding the BENEFITS of being “one with the Father.” I suggested that we read the John 12-17 passage and make a list of the benefits or by-products of being “one with the Father.”

I could think of three or four off the top of my head; however, I was startled to discover 30+ statements that could be interpreted as benefits, by-products and promises. They included such statements as:

1. **You Will Do Greater Things Than Christ**  
John 14: 12-14
2. **We Will Realize That Christ Is In Us**  
John 14:18-20
3. **The Counselor Will Teach You All Things**  
John 14:26
4. **Father Will Give You Whatever You Ask In Christ’s Name & Your Joy Will Be Complete**  
John 16:23-24
5. **You Will Be Protected From The Evil One In The World**  
John 17:15
6. **You Will Be One With The Father**  
John 17:21-23 & John 17:11

*What are the benefits of being “one with the Father?”*

At first I was a little put off by the repetitious descriptions of the by-products of being one that Christ alludes to in John 12-17. I wondered why Christ's love and sacrifice wasn't enough.

After immersing myself in these passages and seeking Christ's purpose in these conversations with the disciples, I understood the over emphasis on benefits. The disciples did not understand Christ at this time. They would not understand until after Pentacost and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

It would be even more critical to future believers since we would have difficulty believing that this was God's intention. We either do not see ourselves as worthy or we do not want to make the commitment required to access these benefits, by-products and promises of bone.

We are not really much different than the disciples. They did not comprehend what Christ was saying at this time even though they had lived with him for three years. However, within forty days they received the Holy Spirit and acquired insights into Christ's purpose. In fact, they manifested these by-products, benefits and promises of Christ.

We too can acquire not just the insights into Christ's purpose but also these same qualities when we become "one with the Father."

***You too  
can  
manifest  
the results  
of being  
one.***

# Outcomes of Being One

Another Christian friend indicated that in order to fully commit his life to Christ, he needed to see some tangible outcomes of being “one with the Father.” For example, he said that he would like God to say aloud, “I love you and I accept you the way you are.” We talked about whether that would be enough long-term. Candidly, he was not sure.

We agreed that those words needed to be complemented by tangible outcomes and changes in our heart and attitude that we could not just conjure up. A study of John 12-17 revealed the tangible by-products, outcomes and promises that we can pray for and expect if we completely sacrifice our life to Christ and the Father.

Most of us will also need to ask for the faith to believe these as promises of Christ even though Christ prayed for these manifestations in our lives. Do we ignore Christ’s prayer for us? Faith will come in part from meditating on these passages. Faith will come as a result of radical obedience.

Christ expects these tangible outcomes to be the normal Christian life. What a difference we will make as Priests empowered by our faith to believe God’s word.

*God’s  
love  
needed to  
produce  
tangible  
changes  
in my  
friend’s  
life.*

**You Will Have A Servant's Heart**

John 13:16-17

“I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

You have to know these things and do them. Many people only read a few of Jesus's words and do not know the whole picture of God's plans for mankind.

20th century Christianity is enamored with leadership in the world. There is now more talk of servant-hood. Greenleaf's "Servant-Leader" is taking hold in some circles. We talk about creating Christian leaders from among our youth and we make heroes of the visible leaders who become Christian.

However, the John passages never talk about our role in the world except in terms of being servants, rejected and persecuted. The dominant theme is a more invisible role, like salt that permeates the entire dough.

Being a servant and having a servant's heart are not always synonymous. Slaves are often servants but their attitude may be 180 degrees the opposite.

Christ is the model. If Christ lives in us, then He will eventually manifest Himself through us. The principles that underlie these manifestations remain the same even though the form may vary.

*Leader  
or  
Servant?*

**You Will Manifest Love for One Another**

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

”As I have loved you” is the key. He laid down his life for those he loved.

No options here. The commander has issued an order. You must exhibit “radical intentional obedience.”

**You Will Do Greater Things Than Christ**

John 14:12

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father.

**Ask Whatever You Wish**

John 12:13-14

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

Remember that what you ask must bring glory to the Father!

**He Gives Us The Holy Spirit As Counselor**

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

This is “radical intentional obedience.”

***“Love one another.”***

***“...Greater things...”***

***Holy Spirit in us.***

**We Will Realize That Christ Is In Us**

John 14:18-20

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”

You are never alone, not even with your own thoughts

**Christ Will Show Himself To Us**

John 14:21

“...and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

**Christ Makes His Home With Us**

John 14:23

“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.”

**Counselor Will Teach You All Things**

John 14:26

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

**Gives Us Peace**

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

***Realize  
that  
Christ  
is in  
us.***

***Teach  
us all  
things.***

***Peace!***

**Father Will Prune Your Life**

John 15:2

“He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful.”

Count on it! The Father is interested in productive vines and branches.

**You Will Bear Fruit**

John 15:5

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

**If You Abide, Ask What You Wish and It Will Be Given**

John 15:7-8

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Key is to know HIS WORDS! WISHES must bring Glory to God

**You Will Remain In His Love**

John 15:10

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

***Prune  
your  
life.***

***Bear  
fruit.***

***“...Ask  
whatever  
you  
wish...”***

***You will  
remain  
in God’s  
love.***

**You Will Have Joy**

John 15:11

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

*You  
will  
have  
joy.*

**Christ’s Command Is Love Each Other**

John 15:13

“Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

*Love each  
other.*

**You Will Be Christ’s Friend & Know His Business**

John 15:14-15

“You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

*Know His  
business.*

**Father Will Give You Whatever You Ask**

John 15:16

“Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.”

*World  
hates  
you.*

**The World Will Hate You**

John 15:18

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

**The World Will Persecute You**

John 15:20

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.”

*World  
persecutes  
you.*

**You Will Not Go Astray**

John 16:1

“All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.”

**Your Church May Persecute You**

John 16:2

“They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.”

**Holy Spirit Will Guide You Into All Truth**

John 16:13

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.”

**No One Will Take Away Your Joy**

John 16:22

“...and no one will take away your joy.”

**The Father Will Give You Whatever You Ask In Christ’s Name & Your Joy Will Be Complete**

John 16:23-24

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

*Not go  
astray.*

*Church  
may per-  
secute  
you.*

**You may have Peace Along With Trouble**

John 16:33

“I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world.”

*You will  
have  
trouble.*

**You Will Have The Protection Of The Father**

John 17:11

“...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.”

**You Will Experience The Full Measure of Christ's Joy**

John 17:13

“...but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”

**You Will Be Protected From The Evil One In The World**

John 17:15

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

*Protected by  
the  
Father.*

**You Will Be Truly Sanctified**

John 17:17-18

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

*Sanctified.*

**Future Believers Will Be One With The Father**

John 17:21-23 & John 17:11

“...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. 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.”

**Your Oneness Will Be Complete**

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.”

**You Will See Christ’s Glory**

John 17:24

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

**We Will Have Christ’s Love and Presence In Us**

John 17:25-26

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

***“...one  
with the  
Father.”***

***Be complete.***

***See  
Christ’s  
Glory.***

***Have  
Christ  
in us.***

# Summary

Each of us fits into one of the following four categories as Followers of Christ:

1. We experience today the fullness of being one.
2. We abide in Christ but do not know what Christ promised nor what was expected of us.
3. We have the knowledge but do not have the faith to tap into God's resources.
4. We have not really made Christ Lord of our life; therefore, these by-products can not be a reality.

How can I manifest these attributes?

1. Commit your entire life to God (Lordship) and His purposes/will.
2. Ask for and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring you to a place that you know in your own strength you cannot accomplish God's will.
4. Exhibit "Radical Intentional Obedience" to God's word.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you thirst after being "one with the Father."

Questions you must seek to answer:

1. Did God really design us to be "one with the Father" as Christ was "one with the Father?"
2. Is being "one with the Father" for this life or is it only for heaven because of the FALL?
3. If we can be "one with the Father" today, can we experience the by-products, benefits or promises of Christ in John 12-17?
4. Am I prepared to live the sacrificed life described in Romans 12:1-2?

*Categories*

*Manifest*

*Questions*

# C

## oncerns & Issues

on being “one with the Father”

### 1. Success, Significance & Insignificance

We are all aware of successful people in secular life, who take their principles of success and apply them to do “significant” things in their spiritual life. Principles of success in one domain do not always translate to another domain.

Materials abound that help Christians make the transition from human success to accomplishing something significant. Significance implies doing something important for God’s eternal kingdom. However, some of the current materials could leave followers of Christ with the impression that we should not do **insignificant** things for the kingdom.

Success or significance is not the issue. The issue is being “one with the Father.” If we are one, we will obey and do either the significant or the insignificant with equal zeal.

In fact, there are no insignificant acts when we are “one with the Father.” No matter how insignificant an act may appear to us, it is important to the Father’s purposes.

*Are you willing to be insignificant?*

## 2. Oneness or Unity

John 17 is used as the basis for discussions on unity among believers. In John 17:23 the phrase “May they be brought to complete unity...” reinforces the argument for unity. In some commentaries and other translations, this phrase is interpreted as “complete oneness.”

“I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity...”

To determine the context and the primary theme of this priestly prayer of Christ, return to John 14.

Christ has completed the last supper. He then engages His disciples in a last discourse on his purpose. He knows that he will die in three days. He only talks about primary issues.

The main theme of John 12-17 is being “one with the Father.” It begins in John 12:24 when Christ describes the first condition of being “one with the Father” when he says, “...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

John 14:23-24 elaborates on the result of God’s love.

“...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.”

***“I in  
them  
and you  
in me.”***

***“We will  
come to  
him and  
make  
our  
home  
with  
him.”***

In John 15, Christ tries to make this relationship with the Father and mankind tangible by drawing an analogy to the “vine and the branch.” Man is the branch attached to the vine. This is not a group activity but rather an individual decision and action.

In John 17:11 and 17:21-23, Christ makes several references to being one,

“...so that they may be one as we are one.”

“...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

“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.”

All the references or analogies to Christ’s relationship with the Father are individual. They do not involve group activity.

Unity is a fine attribute of the church. It is advocated in other portions of scripture. Surely, a congregation filled with people who are “one with the Father” will experience unity. But the prominent theme of John 12-17 is our individual decision to be in a vertical position with the Father not a horizontal position with other followers of Christ.

***“...so that  
they may  
be one as  
we are  
one.”***

### 3. The Good News/Gospel

The original New Testament admonition used by Christ as the “good news” or gospel was “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” in Matthew 4:12 or “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news” in Mark 1:15.

According to the Apostle Paul in Corinthians, “...the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.” I Corinthians 4:20 The good news takes on new meaning in this context. If we are willing to give up control of our lives and believe what Christ says, then all the resources and power of heaven are available to accomplish God’s will.

In the 20th century, the Gospel includes “death, burial and resurrection of Christ.” In fact, one might argue that “death, burial and resurrection” are not really the Gospel. They are; however, the basis for the “good news”.

Being “one with the Father” is what God had in mind for mankind from the beginning of creation. This relationship is about far more than just fellowship with God. He intended that we would be “one with the Father” so that we could effectively subdue the world as he commanded in Genesis as well as being a blessing to the nations.

Once we have been restored through Christ’s work on the Cross, we should expect to return to God’s original purpose for mankind to “multiple and subdue the world” as well as being a blessing to all

*To Christ  
the  
Gospel  
was  
“Repent,  
for the  
Kingdom  
of God  
is near.”*

nations with all God's power and authority.

Landa Cope, Dean of Communications for YWAM's University of the Nations, has been developing a template of god's principles for being a blessing to the nations as an essential complement to the gospel of salvation. This is another way to examine the issues of power and authority. See her WWW site at:

**[www.otemplate.org](http://www.otemplate.org)**

A complete 21st century Gospel might include:

- 1. Repent, the Kingdom of God is at hand.**
- 2. The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Restoration of mankind to a relationship with the Father that Christ describes as being "one with the Father."**
- 4. Once empowered we are to subdue the world and be a blessing to the nations.**

However, a rich but simplified alternative is to return to the resource rich perspective that Christ used when he preached and when he sent his disciples out two by two along with a challenge to preach the following "good news" or gospel.

**"The kingdom of God is near.  
Repent and believe the good news."**

***What  
should  
the 21st  
Century  
Gospel  
include?***

## 4. Salvation and Lordship

Being one with the Father and accessing His power and authority results after meeting certain conditions that God has laid down. Nobody experiences being one with the Father without accepting Christ as his or her Savior.

Man did sin in Eden. Sin is self-realization, self-control or being your own God. In teenagers we call this a “bad attitude.” Christ became human to reconcile the human race to God the Father by his death and resurrection. Instead of being self-centered, we become Christ-centered.

We must simultaneously accept the Lordship of Christ in our lives. Many people are willing to accept Christ as Savior but not as Lord of their life. Christ asks that we sacrifice our entire future to Him. It is a particularly difficult decision for middle and upper class people who are successful in many areas of life and have a great deal to give up.

To voluntarily submit your future life to the will of the Father requires a different and more difficult commitment. Since these two decisions are the opposite side of the same coin, they must be made simultaneously. However, in our American culture we have led people to believe that these decisions can be separated. The Biblical view is that they are complementary and inseparable.

*Two  
conditions  
for being  
“one with  
the  
Father.”*

## 5. God's Will

Committed Followers of Christ are concerned about doing the Father's will. We search, we pray and we agonize over alternatives when the Father has not made the choice obvious. Dan Swab, Pastor of Houghton Lake Bible Church, exclaimed one day, "Searching out God's will for our lives may not be as difficult as we make it out to be."

Upon further reflection, I concluded that when we are "one with the Father" knowing God's will is more a matter of our deciding and God supporting. When we are one, we will have God's intuition and better instincts. God expects us to be involved, immersed and ready to make decisions that He can support wholeheartedly regarding our world.

Oswald Chambers in, My Utmost for His Highest, said on June 3,

"...At first we want the consciousness of being guided by God, then as we go on we live so much in the consciousness of God that we do not need to ask what His will is, because the thought of choosing any other will never occurs to us...God instructs us in what we choose, that is, He guides our common sense, and we no longer hinder His Spirit by continually saying--  
"Now, Lord, what is Thy will?"

Knowing and being God's will is more straight forward when we are "one with the Father."

***"God's  
will is  
straight  
forward  
when..."***

## 6. God's Check Book

Have you ever given a friend the authority to sign checks on your behalf? What kind of relationship would you need with friends to trust them with your checking account?

- Same values
- Similar world view
- Some actual life experience together

Being “one with the Father” implies that we meet similar criteria. Christ in John 12-17 delegates power and authority to ordinary people who are “one with the Father.” The following four verses reflect the extent to which Christ and the Father are willing to go for people who are “one with the Father.”

**John 14: 12-14 “...Ask anything, I will do it.”**

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”

**John 15:7-8 “...Whatever you wish, it will be given you.”**

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

*Christ delegates power and authority to ordinary people who are “one with the Father.”*

**John 15:10-17 “If you..., the Father will give you whatever you ask...”**

“...If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love... Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

**John 16:23-24 “...My Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”**

“In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

Notice that the statements are conditional. This power and authority is not available to everyone.

They also have an interesting tone. It is as if Christ is pleading with His disciples and future believers to grasp the magnitude of what the Father did in creation. Christ says, “...**whatever** you ask in my name,” “...ask **whatever** you wish” and “you may ask me for **anything** and I will do it.”

The tone reminds me of my experiences working with new employees. It would take several months to give a new employee the skills, perspectives and values to make right decisions for our customers.

However, the day comes when you say as an employer to that new employee, “You now have enough experience in our company to decide what we should do. You take responsibility for the solution to this problem and we will back you up

***Power and authority are not available to everyone.***

even in a crisis. We will support your decision because you are immersed in the situation.”

Could Christ be asking his disciples and future believers (ordinary folks like you and me) to take responsibility and make decisions in our world? We are immersed. If we are “one with the Father,” we are his trusted associates.

He promises to back us up and supply all the power and resources of heaven to support our decisions on God’s behalf. That means that the angels, other people and all the financial resources necessary will be there when we need them.

A father stood at the edge of the pool watching his young son in the water. The favored son splashed and yelled, “Dad, look I can swim!” “I can swim!”

However, when one looked beneath the water, the son still had his big toe on the bottom of the pool.

Do you have the faith to believe Christ’s words?

Or is your big toe still on the bottom of the pool?

***Where is  
your big  
toe?***

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