

“I Am Praying for Them”

John 17:6-12

*Belonging to God means **being kept** in his name, **believing** his word,
and **abiding** in the world.*

Belonging to God

His Name

- God's name has been manifested *to* them.
- They have been and are being kept *in* his name.

His Word(s)

- His words are *in* them.
- Received and believed by them.

The World

- They have been taken *out of* the world.
- They are still *in* the world.

Belonging to God means being kept in his name, believing his word, and abiding in the world.

Belonging to God means being kept in His name.

- ◇ They are in his name – (vs. 6, 11, and 12).
- ◇ Matthew 7:9-11 – “Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”
- ◇ **Adoption** – *We are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of God.*
- ◇ **Justification** – *He pardons our sin and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.*

Belonging to God means believing His Word.

- ◇ His words are in them – (vs. 6 and 8).
- ◇ John 5:37-40 – “And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”
- ◇ **Faith** – *a saving grace whereby we receive and rest upon Christ alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.*
- ◇ **Sanctification** – *an ongoing work of renewal in the inner man by the power of God’s Word and His Spirit.*

Belonging to God means abiding in the world.

- ◇ The world is around them— (vs. 6, 9, and 11).
- ◇ Ephesians 1:4-5 – “...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.”
- ◇ John 1:10 – “He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.”
- ◇ **Perseverance** – *the strength to continue which depends on God’s unchangeable love, the merit of Jesus, and his abiding Holy Spirit.*
- ◇ **Glorification** – *the surety of returning to God, beholding his face in light and glory, and the full redemption of our bodies.*

Being kept in His name

- ◇ This does not mean acting in a boastful or prideful way (us vs. them).
- ◇ This is not mean wearing our Christian faith like we wear school colors to the stadium.
- ◇ It does mean living and considering you may be the only Christian some people know.
- ◇ It means living with awareness of how we rub off on others.
- ◇ It means living as His sons and daughters, bringing Him glory in our lives.

Instead of looking at the world with contempt, view them with compassion.

Believing His Word

- ◇ This does not mean we spend our time attacking dissenters – in person or on social media.
- ◇ This doesn't mean we only associate with people like us and avoid all others like the plague.
- ◇ This does not mean we drive ourselves to exhaustion trying to convince our loved ones of the truth.
- ◇ It does mean that we pray for God to use His Word and Spirit to bring about conviction and persuasion.
- ◇ It means we are gentle and patient, speaking the truth in love.

Instead of allowing a rejection of truth to well up into anger and bitterness, pray to God who “desires all people to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Abiding in the world

- ◇ This does not mean we live an insulated life where we cut ourselves off from the world.
- ◇ This doesn't mean an uneven balance where we are at every church event but don't even know our neighbors.
- ◇ This does not mean we live in fear of people who are opposites from us.
- ◇ It does mean investing in lives around us, even if they disagree with us.
- ◇ It means we engage people as Christ engaged them; in gentleness and humility while also speaking the truth.

Instead of being “so heavenly minded that you’re no earthly good,” make use of the time you’ve been given to impact those around you.

◊ We are kept by his power.

◊ We are strengthened by His Word.

◊ We are protected in the world.

◊ *Belonging to God means being kept in His name, believing His Word, and abiding in the world.*