



*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”*

John 17:20, 21

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you the night before he was crucified? In John 17, Jesus prayed not only for his disciples but for everyone who would come to know Jesus in later centuries. At one point in the prayer he prayed *“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of this world, even as I am not of this world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth. As you sent Me into this world, I also have sent them into the world.”* (vss 15-18) Jesus was saying, I am not asking you to isolate My followers from the world; for then they couldn't do any good. And I certainly don't want them to become like the world. That's why I'm asking You to make the holy, separate, apart from the world.” Jesus understood and modeled how to influence the world without isolation and without identification with the world.

As our country and culture falls further and further from Biblical belief and commitment to a Biblical worldview, we find ourselves under constant temptation and deception to accept the world's standards and just “fit in.” But Jesus has prayed for our strength and the power of the Holy Spirit within us to stand firm against the wiles of the devil and to stand firm in the faith. Jesus has already won the victory. Are we living as victors - united in faith against the worldly influence so pervasive in our day?

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