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Episode 133 - "One in Us: John 17 Part 3"

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Hey—Scott here with DTG Ministries. In part three of our deep dive into John 17, we unpack how Jesus' prayer ties back to Proverbs 8 and what it means that the Son was planned from the foundation of the world. We'll talk about being made one with the Father and Son, how the apostles' words pass that faith forward, and why our growth often comes through suffering. If you're hungry for the 'between-the-lines' truths that make the Gospel come alive, hang out with me—let's wrestle with these verses together and let God open our eyes.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to the KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi, I'm Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, continuing a podcast dealing with the book of Revelation, but we have been focusing on the Gospel of John chapter 17, and this would be part three. For years, I've read the Gospel of John chapter 17. It's only been recently that I have been able to see the things that I'm now teaching. There are a variety of things we need to understand before we can come back to the scripture and really be able to read between the lines. For me, I guess the more of this I see, the more aware I am of what I don't know, the more I realize what I don't know... the more wonderful Jesus looks.

It just amazes me, the understanding that he had of the scriptures. I pray that the Lord will open our eyes to understand the way he does. You have an infinite mind. We should be able to understand. I know we can understand a lot better than we do, but it takes an effort on our part.

In John 17, two verses are really special to me, and they're going to be discussed today in part three of John 17. I'm beginning with verse 20, John 17:20.

Jhn 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.

Now, of course, the apostles were chosen of God, and Jesus prepared them for what was coming. He prepared them to carry the message forward and, by use of teaching, deliver the Holy Spirit to as many as would have ears to hear. Those are some pretty big shoes to fill. So he's talking about the people who will believe through their word, and that comes down to us through time.

We believe the truths of God through the word of the apostles because our faith is based on the apostles and prophets. When I see the prophets, I think of the Old Testament. When I see the apostles, I think of the New and how they are explaining the Old. I think of Paul teaching, and the Bereans would go search what he was saying to see if it was true, telling us that Paul taught what he taught from the Old Testament.

But of course, he saw things spiritually. When things are spiritual, most people miss it. They don't understand what's being spoken. So, in verse 20, Christ is praying for those who are going to believe based on the word of the apostles, as they based it on the Old Testament. Verse 21 is one of the verses that it's like I just, I can't get enough of this. I have to just be quiet and reason through what he is saying.

Why through the word of the apostles? What is he doing *that they all may be one*? Now, when he says that, "*that they all may be one*," does he mean the ones listening after the apostles? Or is he including the apostles in that, that those who are going to believe through the word of the apostles, that they would be one with the apostles, too, not only just be one with each other?

I mean, here I am, 2026, trying to teach what he is saying, and for those who can believe it, we can be one. But we're also one with the apostles... *that they may be one*: they, the apostles, and those who hear them.

Jhn 17:21 ... As you, Father, are in me, and I am in you, that they may be one in us...

Now, it's this right here: *"Father, you're in me, and I am in you."* I have read these statements about *"I'm in them, and you're in me,"* you know, you read this. At first, for many years, I read that, and I wasn't exactly sure of what he meant. Then I began to think, well, maybe he means you're in my heart. I'm in their heart. And I know that that's true, too. But I'm realizing something more today. In John 17:21, *"You, Father, are in me."* So we know Jesus was carrying the understanding of God. He said, *"I haven't come for myself. What I'm teaching comes from my Father. What I'm saying, what I'm doing, it all comes from my Father. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."*

So the Father was in him by means of the truth that he carried. He had the Spirit of God without measure. But when he says, *"I am in you,"* I finally realize he is talking about the Logos. The Logos was a concept of God before the world was. We see this in Proverbs 8. So imagine, *"Father, you're in me, but I am in you as well."* It was the Father who put him there within himself. He is the child, the Son of God, the Logos of God. Why is he there? Well, I want to turn to Proverbs 8. Proverbs 8 just keeps coming up, doesn't it? It means so much. So when I look at Proverbs 8:22,

Pro 8:22 Jehovah possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.
(Here he is in the mind of God.)

Pro 8:23 I was anointed from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

For the first time in my life, I understand why that verse is here. It's because of the following verses. When we read in verse 24, *"when there were no depths,"* that word "depths" is "the abyss" ... it's the mind of man. But remember, God loved us. He gave us free thinking. You are a free moral agent. By his own design, you cannot know the wisdom of God unless you are taught it. In his wisdom, he designed it that we would have to be taught by means of the foolishness of preaching.

So when I read here, *when there were no depths*, he doesn't mean clean and perfect. There was no mind yet. There were no people yet. There were no depths yet when he anointed his Son. Why would he anoint him then? *I'm planning to anoint him from the foundation of the world before there's ever even any depths that are full of darkness*, because that's what you see in Genesis chapter 1, *"the face of the deep."* Darkness was *upon the face of the deep* or the person of the abyss. That's the same word. If he is going to correct the abyss, he's going to do it using Christ.

So from the foundation of the world, he plans to anoint his Son. And that entails a whole string of thinking, if you want to get into it, about him becoming a man, emptying himself, being told: *"You're the Son of God."* All of that is in there. Why did he plan that? Well, he did this before there were any depths of darkness.

Pro 8:24 When there were no depths (of darkness), I was brought forth (in the mind of God as the way to correct it). When there were no fountains abounding with water.

Remember, we're talking about a troubled fountain here. We're talking about fountains, as he says in James 3, they bring forth sweet water and bitter (Jas 3:11). What corrects that? The Christ. Verse 25, Proverbs 8.

Pro 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, and the hills, I was brought forth:

Meaning, before the doctrines, mountains and hills, wine and milk, Joel 3:18... before any doctrines, the Son of God was brought forth because he's the foundation of it. So if I look at the problem here, there was no foundation. People who are not settled on the Son of God have no foundation. They're building on sand, not the rock. The last one, verse 26,

Pro 8:26 While he has not made the earth, the fields, the chiefest part of the dust.

That is Satan. That is the adversary that comes about when he gives you a free will. Remember, the serpent only ate dust. This is the chiefest dust, the highest part of the dust. So look at these four things: a dark abyss, a troubled fountain, no foundation, and adversity, the whisperer.

"Father, you're in me. I am in you." He has been from the foundation of the world. He has been in the mind of God. He is the answer to all of our problems. And if you can remember the four things we just discussed here, remember the four things: Darkness of the abyss, troubled fountain, no foundation, and Satan.

Only the Savior can rectify that. So when I look at John 17, how does he begin this again? *"That they all may be one."* How? People who are going to believe through the word of the apostles... *"That they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you."* Why that? So that they may be one in us. The purpose of what you're seeing in the mind of God in Proverbs 8 is love. It is love. If you have the dark abyss, troubled fountain, no foundation, and Satan, you can't get control of it; you will not be one. You can't be.

But you will be because this is his plan from the foundation of the world to anoint his Son. It is his Son who makes this come about. He is the Christ. From the foundation of the world, he was going to be called the Christ. He would become the Christ because it heals humanity, which brings up the cross and just the whole thing. What God has done, it just blows my mind to read this and realize what he is saying. But it's the next part of this verse that got me.

Jhn 17:21 So that the world may believe you've sent me.

Do you want the world to believe in God and in the only begotten Son of God? Do you want that? What is the purpose of the gospel going to all the world for a witness, for what? God would have all men be saved from the foundation of the world. Again, I want to read this. It's like I can't think about this enough.

Jhn 17:20 I don't pray for these alone. I pray for the people who are going to believe on me... (me, on me. Who are you? You're the Son of God.) They'll believe on me through their word.

Can I go to the apostles and say that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God? You bet your life I can do that. We can take these scriptures and see perfectly. Even John 17 is irrefutable in what he is saying in this chapter, that he is the Son of God. Why do that?

That they may be one. That the apostles and anyone who can receive their word will be one, *"as you are in me and I am in you."*

Just imagine. I mean, honestly, if we could go back to the beginning of creation. Go back, and let's say we just see the Father. In his mind is humanity and the problems that they are going to have, and how to correct them. So he reaches the point where he brings his Son, his Son is brought forth in eternity past. Now, proof, the Son is in the Father. He just brought him forth. The Son is in his mind. The Son is now visible. He's literally there. Who else is there? Who else is in the universe? Well, no one. The Father. Well, then, who would be in Jesus' mind? It could only be one person. It could only be one thing. Love. The Father is love.

Father, you're in me, and I'm in you so that these people may be one in us and the world can believe that you sent me. Why did you send him, Father? For this very reason, so that we might all be one. We've got to be one. We've got to be united. Proverbs 8, John 17: these two come together. It's just magical to me to see what he's actually saying. And you know, it's putting two and two together, actually. It's just building on the truth. Again, verse 21, *so that they can all be one, so that the world may believe you sent me into the world.* Why would he have a Son? So that you could be one with him.

Now, as a believer, studying the words of the apostles and prophets, I seek the Lord to give me the understanding of the scriptures to help another person see the love that God has for them. You want to be able to show another person, but you need to get this in your own heart. If you spent the next two or three hours on this verse, it wouldn't be enough. Just be quiet, and let the truth, the Spirit of God, minister to your mind. Verse 22,

Jhn 17:22 And the glory which you gave me I have given them, so they may be one, even as we are one.

What does he mean? Well, I go back to verse 1.

Jhn 17:1 Jesus lifts up his eyes to the heavens, and he says, Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son can glorify you.

Here's how he glorified him. This is what he's talking about.

Jhn 17:2 As you have given him authority over all flesh, so that he can give eternal life to as many as you have given him.

Jhn 17:3 Life eternal is to know you...

"So I have now authority over all flesh," he says, "so that I can teach people about you, because knowing you is eternal life." Verse 22,

Jhn 17:22 The glory which you gave me (authority over all flesh), have I given them; that they may be one as we are one.

You can have authority over all flesh, too. That is the purpose of all of this, *that they may be one, even as we are one*. We're not going to be acting apart from the mind of God. We are going to be united with the Father and united with the Son. *As we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another*. I want you to think, just consider this. When I look at the literal heavens, the sky, I see the sun as a symbol.

The S-U-N is a symbol of the S-O-N. The moon is a symbol of the scriptures. The moon has no light unless the sun shines on it. Now, there are other ways to see this, but that's the fastest way to say it. The stars are what are produced by the sun and the moon. Again, you can go back and read Joseph's dream and see his father, mother, and brethren.

So if I look at the sun, the moon, and the stars, there is no symbol for the Father. Why? Because all of those things are in the Father. If I wanted a symbol of the Father, it would be the universe itself. He's huge. He's mega everything. He's everything. He is the highest. There is only one God, the Father. He brought forth his Son as a way of conveying his love and his Spirit to the rest of us. You can't measure him. You just can't do it. If you look at these symbols, think of the majesty of God. Think of his majesty, his greatness, his wisdom. I can't even put words together to describe who he is, his brilliance, and what he has done.

Now, he is calling you into fellowship with his Son. His Son is the answer to your every need and problem. You are a free moral agent, you guys. God has made you that way.

He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be redeemed from all iniquity so that you can see him for who he really is and let that come into the depths of your being.

Again. If you spent the next few hours thinking about this, it isn't enough. It isn't enough. You're not going to do this, hiding sin in your heart. You're not going to do this bad-mouthing, ridiculing his church. You're not going to do this separated from his church. It doesn't work like that. He is amazing. He wants you to repent, to come forward in humility and tears. He's called you into fellowship with his Son. *"If you walk in the light as he is in the light, you'll have fellowship one with another, and the blood, the death of Christ, will continue to cleanse you from all sin"* (1Jn 1:7).

That is his promise. He cannot lie. Verse 23, Jesus again, now get this. *"I am in them, and you are in me."* See the difference? Verse 21, *"You, Father, are in me and I'm in you."* Verse 23, *"I'm in them, and you're in me."* What you're seeing right there, *I'm in them, and you're in me*, that's the Holy Spirit. That's how it works. Jesus brings the Spirit of God to you. He brings you the understanding of God. Why? *That they may be made perfect in one.* Now, I want to show you the opposite of this, Isaiah 59:2.

Isa 59:2 Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you, that he will not hear.

Isa 59:3 Your hands are defiled with blood, your fingers (your faith) with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perverseness.

That's the opposite. That's the opposite of what we just read, *"I'm in them, and you're in me, that they may be made perfect in one."* That's the opposite. But we're going to add a word to this. I want you to look at Hebrews chapter 2. Let me start at verse 10.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting to him (speaking of the Father) who, (when you think of the Father, man, think of something big. Think of the universe and his brilliance) ... It was fitting to him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory (glory, which is his character), to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Heb 2:11 For both he that sanctifies and they who are sanctified are all one family. (You're all one.) This is why he (the Son of God) is not ashamed to call them brethren.

Come back to John 17:23.

Jhn 17:23 I am in them, and you're in me...

So I am in them. I'm carrying you into them. I am in them, and you're in me, bringing you into these people, so that they may be made perfect through suffering and be one. You are not going to be made perfect without suffering. What does it mean by "suffering"? Oh, you got a bad life. You don't have enough money, and your car's broken down. No, that isn't what he's talking about. He's talking about you being made perfect through suffering; you suffer being tempted. You don't succumb to the temptation. You do what the Lord would have you do. *I'm in them. I'm bringing you into them so that they can be made perfect through suffering and be one.*

Next part, I nearly gasped when I saw this. It was like such an answer to prayer.

Jhn 17:23 ... That the world may know that you've sent me (In verse 22, it's so they could believe it. In verse 23, it's so they could know it), ... that they would know you sent me, and that you have loved them, (the world) as you have loved me (John 3:16).

Again, if you could be made perfect through suffering, that means you're walking in love, and you're showing love to the world, and you're trying to give the world a message. By looking at your love and seeing your love, they can know that God did send Jesus, and if he sent his only begotten Son, then he loves them as much as he loves his Son. I worship God. I praise God. I'm going to read this one more time. I just want it to sink in.

I am in them, and you are in me, Father. (Why?) So they can be made perfect through suffering and be one with us. When that happens, the world will know that you sent me because they're going to be telling them. It's going to cause a sword fight. It's going to cause a problem for people because they don't want to believe this. They want to believe their denomination. They don't want to believe this. And the person who's out here killing with the sword, he must be killed with the sword. You're going to have to take your Bible to prove it. *In this, they will see the patience of the saints* (Rev 14:12). That's what he's saying right here.

You could say this is a parallel verse. You possess the Holy Spirit. You understand they don't know what they're doing, allowing you to be made perfect through your suffering. They will then see a difference between you and them, and they can be convinced that God loves them as much as he loves Jesus. That's probably one of the biggest verses in the whole Bible.

Are you going to give the message? What are you carrying in your heart? What are you hiding there? Confess it. Come out of it. Be free from it. Let God use you. You can be made perfect through suffering. Just think about the immensity of God. And Jesus is his only begotten Son. That is who he's bringing into your mind and heart and conscience. He's bringing this guy.

You can't confess. You can't admit it. Oh, you're going to go out and tell them anyway, without telling anybody, without getting your heart right? I'm telling you, God is too wonderful to resist. He's too big to mess with, and I pray that he is in our corner.

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, I worship you. There is nothing like knowing you. I think of how small we are, but you fill heaven and earth. You do not dwell in temples made with hands. You dwell in infinite minds of perfect hearts, and you bring glory everywhere you go. We worship you. We pray that you are glorified in us in Jesus' name. Amen.