



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 17:6-10  
From Sermon 3.9.25

Read *John 17:6-10*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: While Jesus here continues to speak to the Father alone, His prayer subject changes. In verses 1-5, Jesus was addressing His own work and glory. Now, He folds in His people—namely the Apostles and the Church going forward. All the things Christ prayed for Himself, He now petitions for the elect. Just as the Father and the Son are inseparable, so also is Christ to His body—the Church. Our very existence as believers in a fallen world brings Christ glory and displays His sovereignty.

1. Although clearly not the main subject of His High Priestly Prayer, the statements Jesus makes point to the doctrine of Sovereign Election. Quickly review the differences regarding election in the Arminian view vs Reformed view. Almost every historic denominational creed includes election/predestination. The variance comes in the question of "why" God chooses who He chooses for salvation. The Arminian believes God's choice is based on His foreknowledge of how that person will respond in future to the Gospel. The Reformed view states that God chooses unconditionally, based on His own sovereign, unknown reasons.

See also *Romans 9:11 & 16*

2. Common misconception clarified: Reformed believers are often accused of limiting the Gospel or keeping people out. Not so. We preach the Gospel to all. We have no idea who is elect and who is not. Review the Permission vs Ability doctrine. Read *John 3:16* and *John 6:44*? Are they contradictions? Not at all. Discuss.

2a. Have you ever (still) struggled with unconditional, sovereign election? What about it makes it a hurdle? Various Personal Answers

3. When Jesus says the Apostles have "kept Your word", "received the word", and "have believed the Father sent the Son", what components of saving faith have they believed?

- His Words
- His Miracles
- His Love
- His Perseverance evidenced by the Holy Spirit

4. All believers are a love gift from the Father to the Son (*John 6:37*). One day, given back to the Father (*1 Corinthians 15:24*). How does that truth provide motivation to live Christ-like lives? Various answers.

5. Chapter question: In verses 1 & 5, Jesus said "Father, Glorify Me." How does including, praying for, and protecting all believers going forward glorify Christ? Because not only did He overcome the world, the enemy, and the curse (death), but He shows His sovereign power over all those things in us—this third party. It shows that God's plan cannot be thwarted, even if His children are persecuted, rejected, and dismissed. One day, they will also overcome to rule and reign with Him. See also *Revelation 17:14*

6. It can be easy to exclude ourselves from the grander events of the redemptive story. All these events and words happened 2000 years ago. How does Christ's prayer in John 17 help in showing our connectedness to Him, to the Apostles, and to God's grand conclusion? Various answers, but include: the body cannot be divided by time, culture, or geography. We are one in Christ and He prays for us here.