



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 17:11-19  
From Sermon 3.16.25

Read *John 17:11-19*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Continuing on in His High Priestly Lord's Prayer, Jesus now moves from just asking for the unity of the saints to praying for the things that keep them unified. Namely spiritual protection and personal purity protection. Jesus knows the devil, the world, and even our own sinful flesh can derail the Body of Christ. He also knows the key element is the Word of God and protecting doctrine it contains. The believer's joy will always flow out of his connectedness to the biblical Jesus.

1. Jesus prayed for His Church to be unified. Discuss biblical unity vs worldly unity.

Worldly: never call out/condemn another religion or faith. Redefine, tolerate, and celebrate sin. Get rid of "old, outdated" biblical roles for men and women in the home and church. Include new, hip (heretical) doctrine of TV preachers and word-of-faith movements.

Biblical: common love and devotion to God/Christ (as revealed in Scripture), holding the highest view of Scripture, agape love among His genuine people, & being in the world, but not of the world.

2. Even in this prayer, there are no promises of physical protection. Discuss the physical persecution endured by Jesus, the Apostles, Paul, the faithful Church fathers, & Christians around the world today.

3. How does our spiritual protection relate to our personal purity protection? God is faithful. He has and will continue to provide the means of protection in both areas. It is a cooperative work, however. If we let ourselves get outside of God's umbrella spiritually, we are vulnerable to personal purity failure. When we fail in personal purity, it affects our spiritual life. They are inseparable. If either fails, it was us who failed. See also *Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Corinthians 11:27-30, & James 5:14-15*

4. Read *Ephesians 6:11-18* and breakdown the teaching on the Armor of God.

- Belt of truth: the belt was critical for the soldier in keeping him from tripping on his own tunic/garments during battle. = fully knowing and implementing sound doctrine based on Scripture.
- Breastplate of Righteousness: the breastplate guarded the vital organs, particularly the heart. For us, it is the righteousness of Christ alone—not our own self-righteousness.
- Feet Shod with the Gospel: the foot is where the body meets the world. It required protection and routine cleaning. The Gospel is our bridge into the world. The Good News. Our mission.
- Shield of Faith: the shield took the blows—the attacks by the enemy and the hostile world. Our faith alone in Christ alone gives us the eternal perspective and also guards the believer and the church from lies.
- Helmet of Salvation: the helmet obviously protects the head. Our salvation rooted in Christ's completed work—and now His High Priestly ministry—keeps our mind/thinking right...which dictates our actions.
- Sword of the Spirit: see below.

5. What was the only offensive weapon listed there and how does it connect to Jesus' prayer in John 17. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Jesus prayed that we would be sanctified by the truth and God's Word is the truth. The Word keeps us holy and is our answer/argument to the opponent.