

# “Jesus is Glorified in You”

John 17:1-11, Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:3-4 & 32-35

*Pastor James York*

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How do you describe yourself?  
What is your identity?  
How do you introduce yourself?  
How do you react to “hellos” and “goodbyes”?  
What are your feelings during life transitions?

What is God saying to you regarding these questions through Jesus’ prayer for you? **John 17:1-11** “After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

A form of the word glory was prayed by Jesus for you six times. Jesus says to God, they, humanity, you and me, were yours and you gave them to me. A second time Jesus says, "All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them, so that they may be one, as we are one."

One aspect of our identity is eternal. We are God’s beloved, cherished children. We are loved, forgiven, precious, unique, wonderfully made, beautiful, awesome, by God. We belong to God’s family. With God we are capable of anything and everything. Jesus is glorified in you.

Our identity flows from God. Our description of ourselves should reveal our connection with God and be marvelous. Why is it that we often have a much lower view of ourselves and each other? Why do people, even I, seldom introduce themselves as a talented, beloved child of God?

During life’s hellos and goodbyes, especially the goodbyes, are you remembering that as Jesus said, all are one. In time you will be one with that person to whom you said goodbye as

God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer are one. In time we will be one with everyone as the Holy Trinity is one. God is three distinct, unique persons; yet, God constantly loves and glorifies each person making God one. One day you will have that same oneness with everyone you have ever said goodbye to.

During life's transitions are you reflecting upon how you will be glorified? Transitions such as moving, failing health, diminishing athletic ability, entering junior high, a change in a key relationship, evolving employment status, leaving a club, troop, team, organization, entering tech school, becoming a spouse, a parent, giving your child the keys to the car, moving your child to their own place. Whatever life transitions you experience, remember that you are being glorified. Love endures forever. Whatever you have lost, whatever you are losing, whatever you will lose will be found, renewed, for we are being glorified. Not only will what we have lost be restored it will be grandeur from God's extreme makeover.

We get our sense of identity in many ways. Several of our sources of identity evolve during our life. Our identity as God's beloved child is eternal. Your sense of identity that flows from God will sustain you through everything.

Over the course of your life the world, others and even your own thoughts will place an array of labels upon you. Always remember the labels Jesus gives you. You belong to God. You will be one with God. Jesus is glorified in you. You will be glorious. Try to view yourself through God's perspective. You are created in the image of God. Let that shape your self-image. Ponder how God labels you.

Jesus said that everything God gave to Jesus, God is giving to you. Jesus is eternal life, light, joy, peace, and love. You are receiving life, light, joy, peace, and love.

God said to Jesus, you are my son with whom I am well pleased. God is saying to you, you are my child with whom I am well pleased.

Jesus is glorified in you. How do you think God is glorified in you? Perhaps in your creativity, joy, love, compassion, and service. Whenever you are having a bad day remember that God is being glorified in you, that you are God's beloved child, that no matter how bad you mess things up God will take all that is good in you, all the good you have done and glorify it all for eternity. Whenever you feel alone remember that you are one with God, you are one with everyone that one day we will all rejoice together for eternity. Whenever you are afraid, overwhelmed, or anxious take a deep breath. Feel God's breathe, the source of all life and blessings filling you. St. Athanasius advised, "Always breathe Christ. When we truly breathe in the loving kindness that Jesus is extending to us right now, and experience the forgiveness that Jesus won for us, the acceptance with the Father—it is impossible NOT to breathe out that loving kindness to those around us, near and far."

Perhaps in order to love God and others we need to know ourselves. We need to know we are God's beloved, creative, gifted child. We need to know that our life is bringing glory to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the cosmos. As we grow in our perception of ourselves in relation to God, we grow in love. When we truly discover ourselves, the good and the bad, we grow in our love for others. When we perceive the bad in us, realizing God's grace forgives,

purifies, and renews, building us up into the image of Jesus, we are able to forgive ourselves. We are able to forgive others and build them up. We are able to see past another's faults to their beauty, to that within them that is glorifying God. The more we know ourselves and others the more we love. Eventually we are able to love those we dislike, even our enemies, becoming one with all people as Jesus prayed for us all.

When we forget our identity from God, we try to earn our success which robs us of our joy. We think once I achieve this or that, then I will have made it which makes us anxious, always striving for the future missing love and beauty in the present.

When we forget our identity from God, we try to become self-sufficient, to elevate ourselves by putting others down which makes it really hard to love others, which works against God's forming us into one making us miserable.

When we forget that God is glorified in us when we are our true selves, life becomes an exhausting, elusive quest for approval, purpose, and meaning.

When we forget that God is bringing us all together in eternal oneness, then death seems like an end rather than a beginning of glorious celebration with everyone.

When we forget that God is glorifying us, then whenever we have a loss we see it as in the past, something we will never enjoy again, rather than a marvelous season that we will enjoy again in heaven.

Jesus and scripture try to convey all of this and much more by the in breaking of the Kingdom of God. We are foreigners on earth. The brokenness of the cosmos, the brokenness in each of us, keeps putting us down, hurting us, severing our relationships. Jesus prays for us to know our identity as heirs to God's kingdom. Jesus brought the kingdom of God to earth in himself. We bring the kingdom of God to earth with love.

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples longed for Jesus to restore the entire kingdom of God on earth immediately. One day they were with the Risen Jesus. Perhaps Jesus saw that the disciples had come to know their identity, that they perceived how they were glorifying Jesus; so, Jesus ascended into heaven.

Luke explains. **Acts 1:6-14** "So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by God's own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While Jesus was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son

**of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.**

When we realize we belong to God's kingdom, we live with grateful worship. The psalmist sings. **Psalm 68:3-4, 32-35 "Let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy. Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; lift up a song to God who rides upon the clouds—God's name is the LORD-- be exultant before God. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord. O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, God sends out God's voice, God's mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God in God's sanctuary, the God of Israel; God gives power and strength to God's people. Blessed be God!"**

Heaven is not only our future. Heaven is in you. You are glorifying God. You are bringing heaven to earth.

Write in your journal, talk to a friend, or ponder on a walk these questions informed by today's scripture, in light of God's love for you, shaped by your experiences of God.

How will you describe yourself?

What is your identity?

How will you introduce yourself?

How will you react to "hellos" and "goodbyes"?

How will you handle life transitions?

Amen