



# UNCOMMON

*John 13-17*

## John 17 • January - February 2021

---

### Overview

In this series, we have been looking at how Jesus prepared his disciples for life after him. In John 17, we get a front row seat for an intimate prayer of Jesus before his Father and its content is revealing. What are his priorities? What does he ask the Father to do for followers of Jesus? As we consider this prayer together, let us pray that Jesus' desires for us and His church would become our desires too.

### Outline

1. Uncommon Life - John 17:1-5
2. Uncommon Protection - John 17:6-12
3. Uncommon Purity - John 17:13-19
4. Uncommon Unity - John 17:20-25



# UNCOMMON

*John 13-17*

Uncommon Life • 17 January • John 17:1-5

---

1. What are the circumstances when you might think, “This is the life!” Maybe it’s a place, a person, an activity or something else.
  
2. Eternal life is a theme in John. What do the following verses tell us about that phrase? (John 3:15-16, 36; 5:24; 6:40; 10:28; 17:3)
  
3. What do people in our wider culture think is the pinnacle of life? What is prioritised in life? What is the same and what is different for followers of Jesus?
  
4. Jesus defines eternal life as knowing the Father and the Son (John 17:3).
  - a. What is one thing you would like to prioritise this year to grow in this relationship and, in doing so, experience more of life as Jesus defines it?



- b. How can this group keep you accountable and support you in this?
  
- 5. Eternal life is a confronting subject - either someone believes and has eternal hope or they don't.
  - a. How does this make you reflect on some of the people in your world?
  
  - b. Take some time to pray for them and ask God to open up opportunities for them to hear about Jesus.



# UNCOMMON

*John 13-17*

Uncommon Protection • 24 January • John 17:6-12

---

1. Jesus calls out to His Holy Father.
  - a. What do these verses tell us about the Father? (Luke 11:13; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 1:3; Hebrews 12:7-10)
  - b. What difference does it make for us to relate to God as Father? What stands out to you most?
  
2. Jesus speaks of his disciples remaining in the world (v11) while having been taken out of the world (v6). It reminds us that while we live in the real world among real people, there is a distinctiveness to followers of Jesus.
  - a. In what ways are followers of Jesus exactly like everyone else?
  - b. Where does following Jesus make us most distinctive?



3. Jesus asks the Father to protect the disciples (and by implication followers of Jesus today) for the sake of unity (v11).
  - a. Why do you think unity is such an important thing in the context of the mission of the church?
  - b. What are the biggest threats to unity in your group, our church or the church as a whole?
  - c. In what ways can we seek to safeguard unity?



# UNCOMMON

*John 13-17*

Uncommon Purity • 31 January • John 17:13-19

---

1. Jesus talks about being sent and then sending his disciples.
  - a. What do we understand about Jesus' purpose? (Luke 19:10; John 10:10; 1 John 3:8)
  - b. What about ours? (Matthew 28:19-10; Mark 16:15)
  
2. It's in this context of our mission/purpose in the world that Jesus prays that we would be sanctified (made holy, set apart) by God's word. What examples can you see in your own life where change has occurred in your life as a direct result of God's words?

This passage causes us to confront the subject of the "evil one."

3. "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to...feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." C. S Lewis in *The Screwtape Letters*.

- a. Have you seen either of these extremes? What might the consequences be?
  - b. What would a healthy balance look like?
4. Scripture is clear that the devil (evil one, Satan) is real, defeated, active and awaiting final judgment. Scripture is also clear that Jesus is victorious (Col 2:15).
  - a. What do these verses tell us about the primary tactics of the 'evil one'? (John 8:44; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:10).
  - b. In this light, God's word and truth are especially important. What steps are you taking to grow in your knowledge of and dependence on Scripture this year?



# UNCOMMON

*John 13-17*

## Uncommon Unity • 7 February • John 17:20-26

---

1. Jesus prayed for everyone who would believe as a result of the disciples' testimony. This means he specifically prayed for you and continues to pray for you today (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25). What might be different if you lived each day like this was true?
  
2. Jesus again returns to the theme of unity.
  - a. What standard of unity does Jesus ask for?
  
  - b. To what extent is this the same or different from what we ordinarily find in the groups of people we know (family, work church)?
  
3. Have a look at Ephesians 4:1-6.
  - a. What practices are needed for us to be a church community that actually walks together in peace?
  
  - b. What good examples have you seen of this in the past?





- c. Are there any practices you think you might need to adopt as a group in order to take unity as seriously as Jesus does?
4. Jesus makes a link between unity and love (v23, 24 & 26).
- a. What attitudes are attached to love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7?
  - b. Which one is particularly challenging for you? Why not pray about that together right now?