

Not of this World

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:6-19

What is a Christian? Our understanding of conversion (salvation) has been marginalized in our generation. The gospel has become a sort of charm to be worn around our necks; it is seen much like affiliation with a political party, portrayed as a philosophy to gain “happiness,” “success,” and “wealth” in life. All these things severely marginalize the transformative power of the Gospel, which radically transforms a believer’s life (new creatures). Genuine conversion means a new heart and a new life, evidenced by repentance, faith, and fruit in character and conduct!

As it relates to true Biblical salvation, there is not a spectrum of believers akin to a political spectrum of varying degrees. The possession of eternal life is not subject to degree; it is a yes or no matter. See Matt 25:32-33; 41-46.

I. The Christian does not belong to the World (John 17:6)

- A. **John 17:6**, *“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.”*
 - 1. Our Lord has clearly “manifested” the name of the Father to those the Father has gifted to Him out of the world.
- B. **John 17:9**, *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*
 - 1. Jesus says here that He is not praying for the world
 - 2. The prayer that can be offered for the world is that the world be saved
- C. **John 17:14**, *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
- D. **John 17:16**, *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
 - 1. The question to ask ourselves, considering this truth, is, “**Do I belong to the world?**”
 - 2. There are only two groups of people: those who belong to the world and those who belong to Christ.
 - 3. The Christian has been separated from the world, and yet can we see the difference in his life?
 - a) **Romans 12:2**, *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - b) **James 4:4**, *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*
 - c) **1 John 2:15–17**, *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*
 - d) **1 John 5:19**, *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

II. The Christian does not follow the World

- A. To be “of the world” is to live life apart from God (Worldliness is as much attitude as it is action).
Ephesians 2:1–3, *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*
 - 1. Christians are given spiritual life (**Ephesians 2:1**).
 - a) **1 Corinthians 2:14**, *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*
 - b) **Romans 8:7**, *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.*
 - 2. Christians are led by a new Master (Christ) (**Ephesians 2:2**).

-
- a) **John 8:34**, *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*
 - b) **2 Corinthians 4:4**, *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 3. Christians are given a new life (**Ephesians 2:3a**).
 - a) **1 John 2:16**, *For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.*
 - b) **1 Corinthians 6:9–11a**, *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
 4. Christians are given a new nature (**Ephesians 2:3b**).
 - a) **Ephesians 2:3b**, *But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
 - b) **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*
 5. **Matthew 25:31-46**

III. The Christian is an influencer in the World

- A. The Christian is Salt and Light in the Dark and Decaying world. **Matthew 5:13–14**, *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*
- B. Jesus makes a clear distinction between those “of this world” and those “not of this world.” It is a bold, clear, and unmistakable demarcation. In His teaching, our Lord employs several metaphors to help us grasp this difference in our understanding. This distinction speaks to the radical transformation of regeneration and the new birth in a believer. **1 Corinthians 6:11**, *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*
 1. Your spiritual pedigree is different: **John 8:23**, *He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. (see also John 3:31; 1 Corinthians 15:45-49)*
 2. Your spiritual direction is different: **1 John 4:4–6**, *Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*
 3. Your spiritual father is different: **John 8:41b–47**, *We have one Father—even God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. 43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”*
 4. Your spiritual walk is different: **1 John 1:7**, *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 2:11*, *But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*

IV. The Christian lives in light of His Citizenship (Hebrews 11)

- A. The Christian looks forward to the city built by God (Augustine) (**Hebrews 11:9-10**)
- B. The Christian lives as a stranger and exile on the earth (**Hebrews 11:13**)
- C. The Christian leaves and does not look back to the “old country.” (**Hebrews 11:15-16**)

The Bible contains what John Piper has labeled as “counterintuitive wonders.” One of them is found in **Zechariah 11:16–17**, *For behold, I am raising up in the land a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hoofs. 17 “Woe to my worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock! May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! Let his arm be wholly withered, his right eye utterly blinded!”*

That is a confounding statement. God raises a brutal shepherd and places His people under this shepherd’s heavy and cruel hand. The implication seems to be that God is responsible for this sinful brutality. Second, God judges the shepherd for his worthless actions, and it appears, on the surface, capricious and condemning of what He has ordained. Confusing, yes, and no. How do we handle such “counterintuitive wonders” in Scripture?

- Understand and declare that in every instance God is neither sinful nor capricious.
- Understand and rather than be critical, may we be more prone to change (**Romans 12:1-2**)
- Understand that God is infinite and holy while we are sinful and finite.
- Understand we must overcome our natural resistance to the “strangeness” of God’s ways.
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33-36.**

As Piper says, “God is vastly greater and stranger and more glorious and more dreadful and more loving than we realize.”ⁱⁱ

V. Why Did the Lord Pray for His Disciples?

- A. He prayed that He might “manifest” the glory of God (**John 17:6**)
 - 1. To make manifest – “*phaneroō*” – To cause to become clearly revealed to the mind, the senses, or judgment.
 - 2. The Son of God is more concerned with the glory of God than the circumstances of His crucifixion.
- B. He prayed because of who and whose these disciples are (**John 17:6**).
 - 1. Disciples are those who have obeyed and kept God’s Word.
 - 2. The disciples are God the Father’s gift to the Son (**John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24**)
- C. He prayed because of the task and the calling on their lives (**John 17:9**).
 - 1. These are the disciples who would lead the evangelism charge in 40 days (Acts 2).
 - 2. We are disciples charged with the mission to “go into all the world” with the Gospel.
- D. He prayed for them because of their circumstances (**John 17:14**).
 - 1. **2 Timothy 3:12–13**, *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*
 - 2. **John 15:20**, *Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.*
 - 3. **Matthew 10:25**, *It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*
 - 4. **Acts 14:21–22**, *When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.*
- E. He prayed for them because He is desirous that His own joy may be fulfilled in them.
 - 1. **Hebrews 12:2**, *Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - 2. **1 John 1:4**, *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

VI. What Did the Lord Pray for His Disciples?

- A. He prayed for unity to prevail with Himself and the Father.
 - 1. **John 17:11**, *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (cf. vss. 21, 22-23)*
 - 2. Our Lord’s concern is more about unity between the believer, the Son, and Father, more than believer to believer. Unity with the Godhead is foundational to the unity of the brethren.
- B. He prayed that they be kept from the Evil One.

-
1. **John 17:12**, *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*
 2. **John 17:15**, *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (cf. vs. 11 above)*
 3. **Jude 1**, *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:*
- C. He prayed that they might be sanctified.
1. **John 17:19**, *And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*
 2. **1 John 3:2–3**, *Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*
 - 3.

VII. What Did the Lord Pray Concerning Himself?

- A. He prayed that although He was a man in flesh, He came from God (John 17:8, *For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.*)
- B. He prayed that all understand He is glorified by God (John 17:10, *All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.*) Jesus is glorified by what His disciples become (we are not our own).
- C. He prayed and asserted that He is one with the Father and must be about His Father’s business.
1. **John 17:11**, *And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*
 2. **John 10:30**, *I and the Father are one.”*
- D. He prayed and asserted that He was a Teacher sent from God.
1. **John 17:6**, *“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*
 2. **John 17:8**, *For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.*
- E. He prayed and asserted His care for His disciples (John 17:15, *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*)
- F. He prayed and asserted His loving attitude.
1. They have kept thy Word: **John 17:6**, *“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.*
 2. **Psalms 130:3–4**, *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.*

In the first five verses of John 17, we see the unveiling of the glory of God revealed to us in the plan of salvation. It is the glory of the Trinity: Is Jesus the only way to Heaven? Often asked, seldom explained beyond **John 14:6**. Yes, that would be enough, but there is so much more.

Presuppositions: one, God is the Creator of all things. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1)

- **The eternal council of the Godhead (Hebrews 13:20)**

- God the Father handed over all created things to God the Son: (**Ephesians 1:3-6, esp vss. 7-10**, *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.* **Matthew 28:18**, *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*) Jesus, Son of God, was appointed the Head of all men. Upon His incarnation, He became the second Adam)
- God the Father gave to the Son a people (**John 17:2, John 17:6, 9, 24; 6:37, 39; 10:29**)
- God the Father provided a “work assignment to God the Son (**John 17:4**)

VIII. The Vocabulary of John 17:3

- A. **Eternal** – everlasting; continuing forever; indefinitely. An unlimited duration of time. In the context of ‘eternal life,’ there is not only a temporal element, but also a qualitative distinction. These implications are divine and supernatural attributes. Among them is the idea that ‘eternal life’ means more than simply ‘never dying.’ There is an infinitely better quality of life implied by the word ‘eternal.’
- B. **Know** - know, understand (1 John). John is captivated by ‘knowing’ God. This knowledge reaches beyond a mere intellectual pursuit to an experience. To speak from experience is the implication. The more important distinction is that God is personal (not an inanimate ‘force’) and can be known.
- C. **Only** - lone; being the only one; single and isolated from others. The implication here is that there is no other choice among the ‘gods.’ God is the only ‘Theos.’ (**John 5:44; Romans 16:25; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15-16; Jude 25**).
- D. **Sent** - to dispatch; to send away towards a designated goal or purpose. ‘Apostello’ to send out.

IX. The Only True God

- A. He is a Person
 - 1. **Hebrews 11:6**, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
 - 2. **Isaiah 46:8-11**
 - 3. **Psalms 115:1-8**
- B. He is the Creator
- C. He is Lord of the universe
- D. His Character (**1 John 1:5**)
- E. His equality with the Father (**John 17:3**)
- F. He is the Christ (Messiah; the High Priest who keeps)
- G. He is eternal life (the second Adam) **1 Corinthians 15:22**

X. The Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Lord (As the O.T. Angel of the Lord & New Testament Miracles) Sovereign Ruler of the Universe
 - 1. As the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament (**JOHN 17:4**, the first finish line)
 - a) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-13)
 - b) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham at the offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:11-18)
 - c) Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel (Genesis 32:24-30)
 - d) In the flame of fire in the bush to Moses (Ex 3:2-6)
 - e) In the confrontation with Balaam as the donkey speaks (Numbers 22:22-35)
 - f) To Joshua as the commander of the Lord’s Host (Joshua 5:13-15)
 - g) To Gideon commissioning him as a military leader (Judges 13:2-22)
 - h) As a minister to Elijah (1 Kings 19:5-7)
 - i) As the fourth man in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:24-25)
 - 2. The Lord’s Demonstration of Power over His Creation in Miracles
 - a) Global flood covers the earth (**Genesis 7:10-24**)
 - b) Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed by fire & brimstone; Lot’s wife/pillar salt (**Genesis 19:24-26**)
 - c) Red Sea parts for Israel (**Exodus 14:21-31**)

-
- d) Earth opens and swallows Korah's rebellion (**Numbers 16:32–34**)
 - e) Balaam's donkey speaks (**Numbers 22:28–30**)
 - f) Jordan River parts for Israel (**Joshua 3:14–17**)
 - g) Walls of Jericho collapse (**Joshua 6:20**)
 - h) Sun and moon stand still at Joshua's command (**Joshua 10:12–14**)
 - i) Fire from heaven consumes Elijah's sacrifice on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18:38**)
 - j) Shadow moves backward for Hezekiah (miraculous sign) (**2 Kings 20:9–11**)
 - k) Three men preserved in the fiery furnace (**Daniel 3:24–28**)
 - l) Daniel is kept unharmed in the lions' den (**Daniel 6:22**)
 - m) Every miracle of Jesus performed while on Earth that is recorded in the Gospels.
- B. Jesus (The Prophecies of Messiah's coming) (**JOHN 19:30**, the second finish line)
- 1. The Seed of the Woman - **Genesis 3:15**, *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he [the "seed" of the woman] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*" (Protoevangelium – the first gospel)
 - 2. The Nation of Israel - **Genesis 12:3**, *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* (cf. **Galatians 3:16, 8** cited)
 - 3. The Tribe of Judah - **Genesis 49:10**, *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*
 - 4. The Family of David - **2 Samuel 7:12–13**, *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
 - 5. The Virgin - **Isaiah 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - 6. The town of Bethlehem - **Micah 5:2**, *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*
 - 7. The times of His birth – **Daniel 9:25**, *Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*
 - 8. The Star of His birth - **Numbers 24:17**, *I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.*
- C. Christ (The High Priest) – Messiah
- a) The historical fact of the resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:1-8**)
 - b) Our Lord's High Priestly office fulfilled.
 - (1) **John 20:11-18** – Mary sees the resurrected Christ as High Priest
 - (2) **Hebrews 9:11-15** – Our Lord's Work as High Priest
 - (3) **Revelation 5:1-12** – The coming final confirmation of the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer.

ⁱ Piper, John: Providence, 2020, Desiring God Foundation, Crossway Publishers, Wheaton IL. (14).

ⁱⁱ Ibid (15)