



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel  
John 17:24-26  
From Sermon 3.30.25

Read *John 17:24-26*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: These rich verses conclude both John chapter 17 and Jesus' intimate prayer. They are the assurance of God's granting. The over-arching theme has been unity in the Body. The Son restored to perfect unity with the Father. The Church in unity with the Son and itself. That is gloriously summarized in these final words. It is vitally important that, as the Gospel now transitions back to fast-paced narrative, we do not lose sight of these words and promises. The Apostles do for a brief time, but their joy will be made full (restored) at the resurrection.

1. What are your thoughts on Jesus' High Priestly Prayer? Various personal answers

1a. What have you learned? Various personal answers.

2. The point was made on Sunday that there is a diminishing longing for heaven on the part of Western world believers. Do you agree with that assessment? \_\_\_\_\_

2a. What were the two main reasons given for this trend?

- Peace and Prosperity: American Christians, in particular (European Christians in centuries past), have enjoyed an unprecedented time of safety and security. Being a believer was noble in the culture. In our economic prosperity, we live comfortable lives: homes, disposable income, amenities, food...We end up viewing heaven as far better than hell, but only slightly better than here. See also *Deuteronomy 8:11-17*
- It has not been Preached. The western church in a seeker-oriented mentality has focused the crowd on today—having an even better today. Since they avoid the topic of hell, the topic of heaven is seen as irrelevant. See also *Romans 10:14-17*

3. Do we have fellowship with Christ right now? Yes. But it's not complete. We are separated physically.  
Discuss & See *1 Corinthians 13:12*

3a. Why must we be separated from Christ's physical presence right now? How is that separation an act of love, mercy, and grace? Because we still inhabit these sinful, fallen bodies. Our souls have been regenerated, but we still battle the flesh daily. God keeps the veil between the heavenly and the earthly in place to protect us from His consuming glory. See also *Exodus 33:18-23*

4. When can we be united with Christ physically? Once we are given new, uncorrupted and incorruptible bodies. See *1 Corinthians 15:40-44 & 51-54*

4a. When does that happen? If we die before Christ returns, we will still only be spiritual beings in heaven. All believers (living and dead) will receive new, glorified bodies when Christ gathers His remaining Church on earth at the Rapture. See *1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*

5. Discuss some actions you can take and some prayers you can make to reverse any diminishing longing for heaven and our future glorification. Various personal thoughts