

**Valley Bible Church  
Sermon Notes for November 18, 2007**

**The High Priestly Prayer of Christ  
John 17:6-10  
Dale Whitehead**

Who did Christ pray for in His high priestly prayer?

Christ in John 17:1-5 prayed for Himself.

Christ in John 17:6-19 prayed for His disciples.

What was the motivation for Christ to pray for his disciples.

Christ's motivation in praying for His disciples was love.

The "men" that Christ referred to in John 17:6, to whom He manifested His Father's name while on earth, were His eleven disciples (John 17:12).

The eleven disciples belonged to Christ's Father because His Father had chosen them in eternity past for salvation.

The reason why Christ's Father chose to give the eleven disciples to His Son was so that His Son might save them through His atoning sacrifice.

The proof that Christ had in fact manifested His Father to His eleven disciples and had given them the gift of eternal life was that His disciples had "kept Thy word" (John 17:6).

"Word" (LOGOS) is not plural but singular, and therefore must be understood as referring to Christ and Christ's message as a whole.

Christ's disciples could be described as having kept His Father's word because they, unlike the world, had responded by embracing Jesus as their Messiah.

The disciples, in committing themselves to Jesus as their Messiah, came to know that everything about Christ had its origination in His Father.

The disciples came to know that everything about Christ had its origination in His Father through the words (RHEMATA) that He spoke (John 17:8).

Because the disciples came to know that everything about Christ had its origination in His Father, the disciples ultimately concluded with certainty that His Father had sent Him (John 17:8).

But though Christ is now ready in John 17:9 to pray for His eleven disciples, He is not prepared to pray for the world.

The reason why Christ is prepared to pray for His disciples and not for the world is because the disciples belong to His Father and know the Father, in contrast to the world who does not.

What belongs to the Father also belongs to the Son (John 17:10).

May God give us the grace to trust the words of Christ even when they are difficult to accept or to apply so as faithful disciples we might prove ourselves among the chosen ones.