

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for February 3, 2008**

**The High Priestly Prayer of Christ
John 17:17-19
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 eleven disciples.

Christ's prayer on behalf of His eleven disciples was motivated by an unconditional love rooted in the eternal decrees of His Father (John 17:11-16).

Christ's initial request on behalf of His eleven disciples in John 17:11-16 was that His Father would keep them in His name.

Christ's second request on behalf of His eleven disciples in John 17:17-19 was that His Father would sanctify them in truth.

The word "sanctify" (HAGIAZO) means "to set apart for God."

When Christ asked His Father to sanctify, or set apart, His eleven disciples, He was asking His Father to continue the work of sanctification, or in other words, the sculpting process that He had already begun.

The work of sanctification is accomplished through "the truth" (John 17:17).

The truth that would be used to sanctify His disciples was His Father's truth (John 17:17).

Christ wanted His Father to sanctify His disciples so that they, very much like Himself, might successfully complete the mission upon which they had been sent.

Christ and His disciples had been sent into this world in essence with the same mission. They were both sent to seek and to save the lost (Matthew 28:16-29; Luke 19:10).

We, like Christ and His eleven disciples, have been sent into this world with the very same mission (2 Corinthians 5:16-20).

When Christ in John 17:19, told His Father that for the sake of His disciples He was at the time sanctifying Himself, He was not speaking of His earthly mission but rather His heavenly mission (John 16:7).

May we by the grace of God become what He wants us to become and to do what He wants us to do as He continues to sanctify us through His truth.