

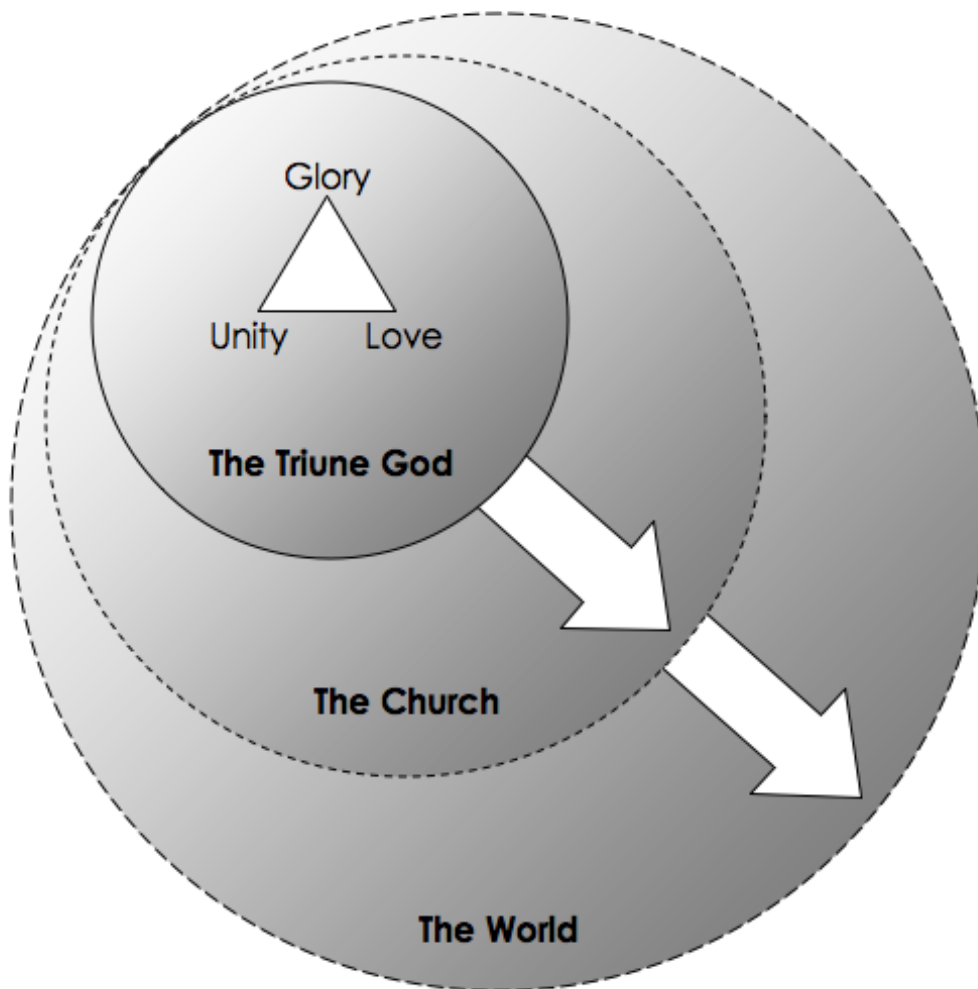
Themes and Threads in John 17:20-26

- 20 (a) I do not ask for these only
(b) but also for those who will believe in me through their word
- 21 (a) that they may all be one
(b) just as you, Father, are in me and I in you
(c) that they may also be in us
(d) so that the world may believe that you sent me.
- 22 (a) The glory you have given to me
(b) I have given to them
(c) that they may be one
(d) even as we are one
- 23 (a) I in them
(b) and you in me
(c) that they may become perfectly one
(d) so that the world may know that you sent me
(e) and love them
(F) even as you loved me
- 24 (a) Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me,
may be with me where I am
(b) to see my glory that you have given me
(c) because you loved me before the foundation of the world
- 25 (a) O Righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you
(b) and these know that you have sent me
- 26 (a) I made known to them your name
(b) and I will continue to make it known
(c) that the love with which you have loved me
(d) may be in them
(e) and I in them.

What is the Gospel of John all about?

“These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Jesus’ mission, according to John, is to reveal the glorious goodness of the Father in character and action, supremely the *glory of the cross and resurrection* (cf. John 1:14, 18; 12:27-33). Those who believe that the Father has sent the Son (which means that they see the Father through the Son, realize that Jesus is God, and therefore know the unity of being and purpose in the Trinity) are given a task of their own as Jesus takes his physical departure from their presence (cf. John 5:16-30; 14:9). Through the power of the promised Spirit, Jesus sends his followers out into the world to display the love of God through the Son by their unity and love for one another (cf. John 14-16; 20:21-23).



1. The Triune God

- (a) Father and Son are one: **united** in being and purpose. The Father sends the Son, and the Son reveals the Father. (21 d; 22d; 23b)
- (b) The Father perfectly **loves** the Son, and the Son the Father, from eternity past. (23f; 24c; 26c)
- (c) Jesus is in **glory** with the Father before the foundation of the world, in his incarnation and death and resurrection he displays the **glory/name** of God, and will one day we will see him in the **glory** of ultimate vindication in the presence of the Father. (22a; 24b; 17:1-5)

2. The Church

- (a) We have seen God's **glory/name** through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. (22b; 26a; 26b)
- (b) The intra-Trinitarian **love** of God is in us through faith in Jesus. In this **love**, we **love** one another. (26d; 13:34-35)

(c) Through Christ and by the indwelling Spirit we are **united** to God in his purpose. One day we will be **reunited** with Jesus in the Father's presence. (21c; 23a; 24a; 26e) Until then, we in the church are to live in oneness and **unity** with one another as a witness to the world. (21a; 22c; 23c)

3. The World

(a) God's desire is for the world to see the **unity** of Jesus and the Father, by believing that the Father sent the Son, and that the Son does all he sees the Father doing. (21d; 23d)

(b) Through our unity and love in the Church, God wants the world to see that the experience of the intra-Trinitarian **love** of God is available to them. (23e)

(c) One day, the world will see the full, unveiled **glory** of the Son in the presence of the Father. (24b; 26b) In that day, the glory of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

SUMMARY

(1) The Father **loves** the Son perfectly, and vice-versa, from all eternity. This results in the Father sending the Son to reveal his glory, and the Son obediently glorifying the Father through his incarnation, death, and resurrection.

(2) The church, seeing the glory of God in Jesus and being brought into the perfect love and oneness of the Trinity, is to live in **unity** and oneness.

(3) Through the unity of the church on mission, the world will see the **glory** of God in the person and work of Jesus.

In love, God gives himself to us in Jesus Christ, to unite us as one body, so that the world may see God's glory.