Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples
John 17:1-26

Introduction:
A. Jesus prayed often and taught his disciples to pray often.
B. Jesus prayed for his disciples in our text, making three great petitions:

Discussion:

I. That They May Be Kept (v. 15)
   A. Kept from the "evil one" as a persecutor. (2 Pet. 5:8).
      1. Verbal persecution. (Mt. 5:11)
   B. Kept from the "evil one" as a pretender. (Rev. 12:9).
      1. Sin pretends to be good and innocent. (Heb. 3:13; cf. Rom. 7:13).
      2. Satan's ministers pretend to be God's ministers. (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
      3. Satan's worker may think he is God's worker. (John 16:2).

II. That They May Be Sanctified. (v. 17)
   A. Set apart (sanctified) in the world. (v. 18, cf. Rom. 12:2).
      1. Disciples still have work do in world. (v. 15; cf. Phil. 2:15).
      2. Disciples still must not be of the world. (v. 14; John 15:19).
   B. Set apart (sanctified) in the church. (Ekklesia means "called out assembly").
      1. Those in N.T. churches were sanctified ones (saints). (I Cor. 1:1; 14:33).
      2. Those in N.T. church were saved -- set apart from lost. (Acts 2:47)

III. That They May Be United. (v. 21-23).
   A. United in the Father and the Son. ("one in us").
      1. United as Father as Son are united. (v. 11).
      2. United as by abiding in the other. (v. 21; cf. John 15:4-8).
   B. United as result of being kept, sanctified and perfected.
      1. "keep... that they may be one as We are". (v. 11).
      2. "sanctified... believe... that they may be one". (vs. 17-21).
      3. "The glory (honor) You gave Me I have given .... that they may be one." (v. 22). - Glory to do God's work on earth. (vs. 1-5)
      4. "Made perfect (or perfected) in one". (v.21).

Conclusion:
A. We have a part in the answer of this prayer.
   1. Must keep selves in love of God (Jude 21)
   2. Must keep selves unspotted from world (James 1:27)
   3. Must keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4:1-3).
B. We cannot help answer this prayer by a ecumenicalism.
C. We must realize the role that God’s word has in the answer to this prayer (vv. 6,17)