



# **WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE**

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## **Jesus and the Father are One.**

**(John 17:1-4)**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Jesus and the Father are One.

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In this chapter Jesus prays that those in Christ may be one, as he and the Father are one, some have mistakenly taken the words Jesus and the Father are one to mean that Jesus is God, but this is not what Jesus was saying when he said, "He and the Father are one" as the following study will show. After Jesus had eaten the Passover meal with the apostles he prayed:

- **John 17:1-4** <sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

The words, "When Jesus had spoken these words" refer back to the previous chapter in which Jesus was explaining to the apostles at the table of the Last Supper that the time has come for him to leave them and go to the Father and though they will leave him and return to their homes he will come back to them. God had already glorified Jesus by pouring His Spirit upon him at his water baptism and through the miracles and wonders he did, and Jesus had glorified the Father by perfectly manifesting God's character and His word in his life and in power, but Jesus words:

- Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you" (v1)

Refer to his death and resurrection. Jesus glorified the Father by surrendering his will to his Father's will even unto death. We know Jesus had to surrender his will because in the Garden of Gethsemane he asked his Father if there was any other way to save mankind to take this cup (of suffering) away from him and then ended the prayer with the words: -

- Nevertheless not my will but yours be done (Luke 22:42).

God glorified his Son by not only raising him from the dead to his right-hand side and to everlasting glory and by giving him authority over all principalities, powers in heaven and on earth, but also by giving him the power to grant eternal life to those who come to him.

### Jesus manifested God's glory by:

- The compassion, mercy and love he showed to the weak and poor.
- The grace and forgiveness he showed to sinners
- The power of God he used to miraculously heal all kinds of sicknesses.
- The fruits of the spirit he manifested in his own life.
- His total obedience to the Father's will.

Jesus states that:

- Eternal life is knowing the only true God, and Jesus Christ who He sent" (v3)

These words of Jesus clearly shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus is not God (as some believe) since Jesus very clearly states that to have eternal life a sinner must believe in the only true God (the Father) and also believe in the one He sent referring of course to His most beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout the entire Bible the teaching is that there is one true God and one Lord Jesus Christ the most beloved Son of the one true God.

The following notes have been entered to help those who have been taught that Jesus is God understand what the Bible means when it states that God the Father and Christ His Son are one.

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## THE ONLY TRUE GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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The following Old Testament verses show that God the Father is the only true God and that there is no other.

- He is the LORD who alone stretched out the heavens, and spread out the earth by Himself (Isaiah 44:24).
- I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; though you do not know me, there is none besides me; I am the LORD, there is no other. (Isaiah 45:5-7).
- There is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none besides me turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other (Isaiah 45:21-22).
- Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me (Isaiah 46:9).

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## THE ONLY TRUE GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

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The following New Testament verses show that God the Father is the only true God and that there is no other.

- Jesus himself said, "This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3).
- For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18).
- James, a servant of God and a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ (James 1:1).
- Jesus himself said, "The most important thing is to know that the Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Mark 12:29-32).
- Paul said, "For the apostles there is one God, the Father and one Lord, Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 8:6).
- Jesus said, "Call no-man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven" (Matthew 23:9).
- It will be counted to us who believe in God who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord (Romans 4:24).

Jesus prayed to his heavenly Father that:

- Those in Christ may be one, as he and the Father are one (John 17:11).

In this prayer Jesus is praying that that a collective group of individuals would be one as God the Father and Jesus Christ are one. Obviously being one does not mean that a collective group of disciples become one single individual, but that they become one in thought, mind, motive, goals and purpose and one in love and unity. This idea of being one carries the same idea when Jesus and God are spoken of as being one, it does not mean they are the same person but that Jesus and God the Father are one in purpose plans and motivation they have the same mind and are in perfect love and perfect unity together. This is what Jesus means when he prays that his disciples will become one as he and his heavenly Father are one. Being one is about becoming one in mind, love and perfect unity (John 17:21-23).

Jesus prayed that his disciples:

- May all be one, just as the Father is in him and he is in the Father that they also may be in the Father and the Son so that they may be one even as the Father and the Son are one, I in them and you in me that they may become perfectly one (John 17:21-23).

It is in relationship to being one that the Father is in Christ and Christ is in the Father. Jesus is saying that he is in the Father and the Father is in him in the sense of being one in mind and purpose, love and unity. Putting these verses together it becomes very clear that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Son) are not the same person, but are one in perfect unity and one in perfect love. Jesus tells his disciples when he appears to them after the resurrection that:

- They will know that he is in his Father and they are in him and he is in them (John 14:20).

The words, "I am in my Father" does not mean Jesus Christ is the Father, just as the phrase, "The disciples are in Christ" does not mean that the disciples are Jesus. The same principal applies to the statement, "Jesus is in the disciples" obviously this does not mean Jesus is the disciples. Jesus statement, "I am in the Father" simply means Jesus Christ completely embraces all that the Father is, likewise the phrase, "The disciples are in Jesus" means they completely embrace all that Jesus is. The words, "Jesus is in the disciple's" means Jesus has totally invested his life in those who will believe in him and the words, "I in you and you in me" carries the idea that one person entirely embraces another person and accepts all that they are and do. It means that they will do everything they are able to do, to benefit the other person and vice versa, both persons embrace the same plans goals and purposes and have the same mind, both are completely devoted to each other in love and unity (John 17:22-26).

Jesus prayed:

- That they may be one, even as we are one (John 17:11).

3

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Here Jesus is praying that multitudes of believer's would be one just as he and the Father are one. This clearly shows that Jesus and the Father are not one God or one individual because multitudes of believers cannot become one person just as Jesus the Son and God the Father cannot become one individual showing that becoming one in this context means becoming one in mind it is about having the same plans goals and purposes and becoming one in perfect love and perfect unity. A few verses on in the same prayer Jesus prays:

- That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us (John 17:21).

The words, "They may all be one" does not mean they will all become one person, it carries the idea that multitudes of individual believers will all become one in love, unity, mind plans, goals, motivation and purpose. Jesus prayer is that multitudes of individual believers become one in perfect love and perfect unity. Jesus and the Father are one in the same sense that multitudes of individual believers are one in Jesus Christ. God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son are both the same in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purposes making them both one in perfect love and perfect unity. Jesus prays that:

- Multitudes of individual believers will be in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:21).

This means that believer's minds; hearts and lives would become entirely devoted to the will of God and to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. It carries the idea that the emotions, affections thoughts and feelings are set on God the Father and upon the Lord Jesus Christ and that greatest desire of the heart and mind of those who belong to Christ is to please him and honour God the Father. When Jesus said, "That he is in the Father" (John 17:21) he does not mean that he is the Father, the phrase, "I am in the

Father,” carries the same idea as his prayer for his disciples to be in him. It means that Jesus has the same mind plans goals motivation and purposes as God the Father they are in perfect unity together in all that they think, do and plan. Jesus prayed:

- That multitudes of individual believers will be one as Jesus and God the Father are one (John 17:22).

Obviously, multitudes of believers cannot be one person, just as Jesus Christ the Son cannot be God the Father or God the Father be Jesus Christ the Son. Jesus words, “That they may be one even as we are one” means his desire is that multitudes of individual believers would become one in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purposes, so that they will be one in perfect love and unity just as God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are one in mind, plans, goals, motivation and purpose and are therefore in perfect love and perfect unity together.

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## SUMMARY

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Jesus desires “That the love with which his heavenly Father has loved him would be in his disciples, and that Christ’s love would also be in them” (John 17:26). These words of Jesus show that God the Father is in Jesus by His love and Jesus is in Father by his love toward Him. It is by love that God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. Jesus desire is that the love of God that is in him would also be in his disciples. Jesus is in his disciples by his love toward them and likewise they are in him by their love toward him. When two people love each other with all their heart, soul and mind and all their affections, emotions and feelings it can be said that they are in each other and have become one in love and unity. Jesus desire is for those who belong to him to have this kind of relationship with himself and with his Father.

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- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love (1 John 4:8).
- God is love and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:16).

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### **For further information see the title:**

- Jesus and the Father are One (John 10:30).