

Kept

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 17:9-19.

B. Jesus prayed for Himself that He might be glorified, for His apostles and for those that would ultimately believe later.

II. The Lord's prayer for the apostles.

A. He prayed for the apostles because of His love and concern for them.

B. Three reasons for His love.

1. They were the gift of the Father to the Son. The Father draws people.
2. You are not your own—you belong to God if you are a Christian.
3. Jesus was glorified in them.

III. What Jesus prays.

A. That they will be in unity.

B. That they will be kept from Satan.

1. They were kept by the Father's power.
 - a. Keeping them was a difficult task.
 - b. Judas was never really part of the apostolic band—it was his destiny to be lost.
2. Jesus called out a group from the world to be dependent upon God.
 - a. The disciples were given a sense of joy apart from the world.
 - b. The world is never happy unless it has control.
 - c. The disciples are to stand firm in the gospel against persecution. (Philippians 1)
3. Jesus does not pray that a Christian is removed from the world. This is a violation of the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6)

C. That they will be sanctified in the truth.

1. God set us apart for the use that we were intended.

2. God's Word sanctifies us.

3. The Word of truth counters the deceit of the world.

Application questions:

1. How does it make you feel that believers are "kept?" How does this help the believer?

2. What does it mean to be sanctified and how does this happen?

3. What does it mean to be worldly? How would you like to be less "worldly" in your daily life?
