

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## ***On Mission with God*** **John 17:15-20**

**Keywords:** missional, gospel, missions, missionary, unity

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** NONE

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Jesus did not save us for us to sit on our rear ends and relax. He saved us to send us, just and His Father sent Him into this dark world. But too often we as Christians fail to see this, or to take this responsibility seriously. That is sin and it must be repented of by God's people. In this message Pastor Henry tries to begin to unlock the meaning of being missional. It is being sent out with the gospel to a dying world.

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. We continue today with this short series describing what a missional life and a missional church looks like.
  - 1. This series is designed to be a reminder to some of you so that you might consider where you are personally at on this important subject.
  - 2. It is also to function as an explanation to those who are newer to this church so that you understand the "why" and the "how" that makes up Missio Dei Fellowship.
- B. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "missionary?"
  - 1. It might be mud huts, or leaving your country, or something like that. You might think of persecution or foreign language as well.
  - 2. Regardless what you imagine what normally does not come to mind is "you."
  - 3. Missions and missionaries are two things that most Christian in America see as being for someone else.
    - a. They like missionaries.
    - b. They pray for them.
    - c. They pay for them.
    - d. But they are usually always "they."

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- C. I want to demolish that thought pattern.
- D. John 17:15-20 (read).
  - 1. Here we have one key passage that is a huge hammer to the false idea that others are the missionaries.
  - 2. Jesus is approaching his death in just hours. This is the great prayer of Jesus on behalf of us. And it is the last time He will pray in this manner that is recorded.
  - 3. And here we get to see what is His passion as both God and Savior.

***Propositional Statement***

Jesus' prayer gives us a clear picture of what God expects of all who call themselves "Christian." It strips away the many lies that we tell ourselves and others and propels us into the world we live in to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. God saves us to send us. It is that simple and that profound.

**II. God Saves Us to Send Us.**

- A. Why?
  - 1. Because God is a sending God (18).
  - 2. Here we see the glory of the gospel.
    - a. Give the big picture of creation, fall and redemption.
    - b. Work into it that in all of this God comes to us.
    - c. John 3:16
  - 3. A biblical church—a God honoring church—is a sent church.
  - 4. More than that, a biblical Christian is a sent Christian.
  - 5. God sends us and he expects us to go.
- B. Where?
  - 1. Vs. 18—"into the world."
  - 2. Where, then, does the church belong? Where do you belong?
    - a. It is not avoiding the world.
    - b. It is not judging the world.

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- c. It is going into the world on mission for God.
  - d. Every day we are to be rising and going out into the coffee shops, gas stations, workplaces, grocery stores, and schools not as a citizen—but as a missionary.
3. Notice the protection that is given to the Christian in this work (15).
- a. They are protected from the ‘evil one.’
  - b. 1 John 5:19.
    - (1) When we walk in God’s protection we are not ‘of this world, even though we are ‘in’ this world.
    - (2) It is only when we walk foolishly, then we become tools of the evil one and we climb up on his lap.
    - (3) Ephesians is a good example of this:
      - (a) Ephesians 2:1-2—this world walks/conducts according to Satan.
      - (b) Ephesians 4:17ff.
        - i) So a missional person walks in this world different.
        - ii) Notice vs 20, for it shows that the gospel is the defining truth that motivates a Christian in his life.
  - c. Understand this well, the mission we are to be on is the same one Jesus was sent to do.
    - (1) We see this laid out in John 20:21.
    - (2) Acts 1:7-8.
    - (3) Acts 9—the saving of Paul to send him out (9:15).
    - (4) We too are His chosen instruments to bring the gospel where we find ourselves.
4. Some basic conclusions:

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- a. First, we cannot let the sinfulness of the world keep us from being in the world. There is a divine protection involved here.
  - b. Second, the real question for each Christian here is only this, where and to whom am I being sent as a missionary.
    - (1) It isn't everyone. It can't be.
    - (2) But it is somewhere. It must be.
- C. How?
- 1. This passage gives us at least **seven different points** that we need to see and obey.
  - 2. First, by seeing ourselves as people who belong to God's kingdom (16).
    - a. Until this one soaks into your heart and hand you will not understand anything else.
    - b. If you believe that the car you drive is yours, that the house you live in is yours, or anything else, then you don't understand the radical call that Jesus has given to you.
    - c. This world cannot conform you to its values.
    - d. Understand this well, the gospel is both trans-cultural and counter-cultural.
    - e. And everything that you and I do must begin to reflect that we live for a different King and belong to a different world.
  - 3. Second, we must learn to truly follow Jesus (18-19).
    - a. Who sent Jesus into the world? [God] But who sends us? [Jesus].
    - b. Beloved, let the parallelism sink into your minds!
      - (1) We are not aimless wanderers in this world!
      - (2) We have our commission and we are to complete it as faithfully as our Lord did so.

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- c. He is the ultimate standard by which we judge ourselves.
- d. Notice though that we are to be following Him just ‘as’ He was sent into the world.
  - (1) To the degree that we grasp that we are going to be faithful followers.
  - (2) This means you and I must be students of Jesus.
- e. This ability for us to follow Jesus and be on mission with Him was done because of the Cross.
  - (1) This is what is meant by vs 18.
  - (2) God sanctified Jesus. What does that mean. To be set apart, made holy for a purpose.
  - (3) And what was that purpose, to come and die to destroy sin, and rise again to destroy death.
  - (4) And if Jesus hadn’t done that then there would not be any mission that we would be on, for we would be under condemnation, under sin, and awaiting only eternal hell.
- 4. Third, this missional life is to be done in true “community” (vss 21, 23)
  - a. If you don’t like that word, then replace it with fellowship.
  - b. There is a unity and fellowship here that is not some vague sort, but powerful and beyond this world.
  - c. His desire is that our unity and relationships should mirror whose? [between Him and His Father]
- 5. Fourth, in true unity (23).
  - a. Being on mission with God is not just telling people the gospel.
    - (1) There is to be the living that gospel out before a world that doesn’t know true unity and community.

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- (2) It is here that we must fight hard for the truth.
- (3) There can be no tolerance for disunity.
- (4) We need to stand firm on non-negotiables, but we must show grace on those that are negotiable.
  - (a) Dress.
  - (b) Tobacco.
  - (c) Alcohol.
  - (d) Schooling choices.
- b. Notice the reason that Jesus gives in vs 23.
  - (1) See first the flow. Jesus is in His Father. We are in Jesus, for the initial purpose of true unity.
  - (2) But that is not the final purpose . . .
    - (a) That the world may KNOW . . . and BELIEVE. . . .
    - (b) The gospel is spread through the show of true Christ centered-Cross purchased-Sinner loving unity.
6. Fifth, as reflectors of God's glory (22).
7. Sixth, point always to Jesus (21).
  - a. As people what they think of when they hear "Christian."
  - b. How many of you believe it would be "Jesus?" I don't.
  - c. Ask someone you know is not a Christian what they think of when they hear about Christians.
  - d. I have found most think of a person who doesn't cuss, drink, or smoke.
  - e. Give illustration of Michener's *Hawaii* with the missionaries.

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- f. Everything we do should be driven by the desire that those who do not believe in Jesus would believe in Him.
- 8. Seventh, kingdom focused (24).
  - a. This what He means about us seeing His glory.
  - b. We cannot and do not see it as it is. Though we can try and we are given glimpses of it in the bible.
  - c. But in eternity, in the new heavens and earth, we will behold it and delight in it for all eternity.
  - d. God saves us so that we might truly and finally see Him as the highest good and greatest joy.
- D. Who?
  - 1. Who is to be doing this?
  - 2. All who follow through the Apostle's teaching (20)
  - 3. What is the word that the apostles brought? It was the message of Jesus, the gospel.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. How do we do this?
- B. We embrace a sent life.
  - 1. It is not doing local missions—that is an activity.
  - 2. It is seeing ourselves in a way we never have before. We have been sent to Kenosha, Racine, Waterford, Union Grove, and Milwaukee to be missionaries.
  - 3. It means we stop acting like citizens of this place and start living like missionaries.
  - 4. We go into the culture, we love the people, we study, watch, love and talk to them.
- C. We embrace the centrality of the gospel in life and word.
  - 1. We realize that our rights are not the point.

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2. We embrace a life that is simply the taking up of the cross daily and following Jesus.
  3. We learn to see that how we talk and walk either moves the gospel forward or obscures it.
- D. We embrace the people around us as those we have come to serve and to save.
1. They are not our enemies. They are us, without Jesus!
  2. We seek to meet them where they are at rather than where we are at.
  3. Being missional is not merely us trying to be contemporary in our music, dress or demeanor. It is rooting ourselves in our culture, whatever that might be.
  4. It is a “go and tell” attitude more than a “come and see” one.
  5. It means that we have to not hide from the world, for it is where we are called to go for the name of the Lord.
- E. When the world sees this coming from our lives in a consistent manner there are one of two reactions:
1. We will draw people to Jesus.
  2. We will offend them with the Cross.

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## Community Group Questions

- Have you seen yourself as a sender or the sent in the past?
- What are some things you have seen or heard when the term “Christian” comes up?
- In your opinion, what are some of the key differences in thinking between one who is a missionary compared to a citizen?
- If you ever have been on a missions trip, in what ways did you act differently? How did you view the people and the culture that you went into?