



## • Pastor Cedric Hill “One Anothering: Between Two Worlds” 5/22/2022

### Key Verses:

- John 17:14-21

### Key Thoughts:

- The Creator of our community calls us to imitate Jesus in sacrificial love toward one another so that we can share that Love with people outside of our community.
- Jesus prays in John 17 for his disciples to live out their lives in the world but be different from the world. He’s calling them to live between two worlds. We are called to live in the tension of the two sides of our purpose statement. We imitate Jesus in sacrificial love towards one another AND we share that love with people outside of our community.

### Key Points:

1. Distinct, but not isolated (John 17:14-17)
  - Jesus calls his disciples to be distinct and set apart, unlike the rest of the world, but he also prays that God wouldn’t take them out of the world.
  - In Genesis 12:1-3, we see God’s intention for Abraham and his family: that God’s blessing of them would end with the rest of the world knowing God through them.
  - Jesus prays for his disciples to be distinct but that they’d stay engaged in the world.
2. Missional, but not enmeshed (John 17:18-19)
  - Jesus sends his disciples on a mission into the world, just as he was sent by the Father.
  - Enmeshment is a description of a relationship where boundaries are unclear. Jesus got close to people but maintained his own distinct boundaries.
  - In Philippians 3:20-21, Paul writes to a church in Philippi, a Roman colony located in Northern Greece. He tells them that they are “citizens of heaven”. In that day, to be a citizen of Rome did not mean that you lived in Rome; it meant that you were to bring Roman culture and influence to wherever you lived (Philippi in this case). To be a citizen of heaven means that living on earth, we are to bring the benefits of heaven, the ways of living and practices of Jesus to where we are not.
3. Loving community is not only about us (John 17:20-21)
  - Jesus prays here for people who don’t yet know him but will come to know him through the word of his disciples. There was a time when this prayer was about each of us.
  - The end goal for Jesus is that our unity would mirror Jesus and the Father in such a way that the rest of the world would believe in Jesus.

### Discussion Questions:

1. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to live out this balance? Do you have a leaning more towards community within the church or sharing love outside the church?
2. How do we live in the world but distinctly from it?
3. Which of the key points resonates with you the most? What do you need to begin to do to implement it into your life?