

## Life on a Mission ...Into the World

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### The John 17 Project (Pt. 10)

December 4, 2022

**John 17:15-20** "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word..."

**...But Sanctification ("Set-Apartness") is linked to Something Else as well!**

...This is STRATEGIC!

...This is DESIGN!

**Jesus Foresees the Future of a Disciple's Existence in This Prayer (He looks into our future and prays for the purpose he sees there!)**

**...a Life with a Particular Earthly Emphasis  
...a Particular Goal in Mind!**

## **Why Am I Still Here? ...A Life with a Particular Earthly Emphasis**

...What is to be My/Your Earthly "Emphasis"? ...I guess you could say that's an "Identity Question" ...a "Self-Definition Question" ...a "Personal Interest Question" ...a "Meaning-in-Life Question"

**THE Story Line of the Bible is The GOSPEL! It is a story of REDEMPTION! ...of RESTORATION ...of REUNITING ...of RECONCILIATION**

**...SO ...The Gospel is Proclaimed to me in 1978 and I come to believe it in Feb of 1979 ...and ALL these "R's" become true of me!! ...Yet Here I Am some 44 years later—STILL on EARTH!!**

**What am I still doing here?** ...I've been told about a Celestial Home that Exceeds a "Milk & Honey Existence"! A place where there are no more tears, no more suffering, no more death! ...a Place where I will no longer live by the shadowy, blurry existence of faith--but I will See Him as He is and Fully Know Him!

## WHAT AM I STILL DOING HERE?????

**John 17:18-20** *"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. <sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word..."*

**"As Jesus was SENT into the world, so I am SENT into the world ...for those who will believe in Jesus through their word"**

**Philippians 2:5-8** *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."*

...THIS was His Sending into the World!

**Heb 12:1-4** *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood."*

## WHAT AM I STILL DOING HERE?

Jesus Looks into a Disciple's Future and Sees a Particular Earthly Mission! ...For Every Disciple!

**Matt 28:18-20** *“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

**Acts 1:6-8** *“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

...Here, the "Human Being" is  
CUSTOM REDESIGNED for a  
Particular Task!! ...to be  
WITNESSES to the end of the earth  
... "for those who will believe in  
me through their word"

**Do These Passages Inform our CONFIDENCE & EXPECTATIONS?** ...Jesus said that "others WILL BELIEVE through their word" ...then he said, "All authority is mine, so GO" ...then he said, "You will receive SPECIAL POWER in order to be witnesses to the ends of the earth"

...Do we expect that anyone is going to believe???

**Acts 26:15-18** *“And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ... <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

***...In Jn 17 Jesus is praying &  
sending disciples into the world  
...in Acts 26 He is Still Doing  
That!!***

**A Life Designed & Destined for a Particular MISSION!** ...a Mission that Sends us to Those who Will Believe Through Our Word

- **A Life that Manages our Energy, our Eagerness, our Expertise, and our Expenses—for the sake of the Mission!**

- **Energy** ...
- **Eagerness** (what we pursue, treasure, dream about and seek)

**Matt 6:33** *“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*

- **Expertise** (what we focus on and get good at)
- **Expense** (what we spend money on)

***The Disciple’s Mission (that Jesus prays for) requires: Energy, Eagerness, Expertise, and Expenses***

- **A Life that is Designed for "TRAVEL & TRANSFER"!!**

## **"INTO THE WORLD"**

(a commentary on our Expectations)

**John 17:18** *“As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them **into the world.**”*

...THIS is the Place we are Going!

Many of us are familiar with books and movies whose plots revolve around central characters finding themselves trapped in a world where nothing behaves in quite the way they expect. Perhaps Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* might be the classic examples of this in children’s literature. But this is a standard plotline in many other works. From Franz Kafka’s *The Trial* to *The Matrix* series of movies, dystopian confusion is a hardy perennial of our culture...

...Yet this phenomenon is no longer confined to the fictional products of our day. For many people, the Western world in which we now live has a profoundly confusing, and often disturbing, quality to it. Things once regarded as obvious and unassailable virtues have in recent years been subject to vigorous criticism and even in some cases come to be seen by many as more akin to vices. Indeed, it can seem as if things that almost everybody believed as unquestioned orthodoxy the day before yesterday—that marriage is to be between one man and one woman, for example—are now regarded as heresies advocated only by the dangerous, lunatic fringe. **Trueman, Carl R..** *Strange New World* (pp. 16-17). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

... "I do not ask that you take them out of the world ...I am sending them **into the world.**" ...it is a World where "nothing behaves in quite the way we expect" ... a world that is "confusing and often disturbing" ...a world where "things once regarded as obvious unassailable virtues have in recent years been subject to vigorous criticism"

Nor are the problems confined to the world "out there." Often, they manifest themselves most acutely and most painfully within families. Parents teaching their family traditional views of sex find themselves met with incomprehension by their children who have absorbed far different views from the culture around them. What a parent considers to be a loving response to a child struggling with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria might be regarded by the child as hateful and bigoted. And this is as true within the church as it is within wider society. The generation gap today is reflected not simply in fashion and music but in attitudes and beliefs about some of the most basic aspects of human existence. The result is often confusion and sometimes even heartbreak as many of the most brutal engagements in the culture war are played out around the dinner table and at family gatherings.

Welcome to this strange new world. You may not like it. But it is where you live, and therefore it is important that you try to understand it. **Trueman, Carl R..** *Strange New World* (p. 17). Crossway

**John 17:18** "As you sent me **into the world**, so I have sent them **into the world.**" ... "THIS World"