



## INTRODUCTION

*"The biblical God is by nature a sending God, a missionary God. The Father sends the Son, and the Son sends the Spirit and his disciples into the world. Therefore, the whole church is in mission; every Christian is in mission." - Tim Keller*

### I. The message according to John (17:1–5)

**The gospel according to John is that the true life of the world has come in Jesus Christ. To trust him is to know God and find the true meaning and life we're all after.**

*"Human beings need to organize the sensations amid which we pass our days—pain, desires, pleasure, fear—into a story. When the story leads somewhere and thereby helps us navigate through life to its inevitable terminus in death, it gives us hope... and while we have gotten very good at deconstructing old stories (like religion), when it comes to telling new stories, we are blocked.. here we arrive at the root of our postmodern melancholy (depression). We live in an age of unprecedented wealth, but in the realm of narrative and symbol (real meaning), we are deprived.. And so the ache for meaning goes unrelieved.. Tocqueville said it best 'the incomplete joys of this world will never satisfy his heart.'" Andrew Debalco, "The Real American Dream"*

### II. The Mission according to John (17:14–21)

**"the united church is to have a faithful presence in the world for the world."**



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1. The church is to practice "Faithful presence" in the world. We are to be "in the world", but not "of the world". Distinct from the world (faithful), but engaged with the world (present).

A. Attitude of compromise

B. Attitude of condemnation and withdrawal

2. Sanctified for the world

1 Peter 2:9-10 "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, **that** you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light."

3. Be on mission together

*"I felt at home. There is more to this than I can explain. I just felt at home. After I got to Port William, I didn't feel any longer that I needed to look around to see if there was some place better. I quit wondering what I would make of myself. A lot of my doubts and questions were settled." -Wendell Berry, "Jayber Crow"*