

The **best way** to begin to help another find Jesus Christ is to invite them to join you at church.

This is how the early church grew so quickly: *The followers of Christ invited others to join them at church.*

In the life of the Christ Community.

To *experience* part of a life with God.

IV. CHRIST SENT US INTO THE WORLD WITH A SIMPLE AND CLEAR MESSAGE

Jesus came into the world to preach the good news; He said so Himself.

We should be ready to tell people three simple but profoundly true things:

A. What Jesus did to save us from sin.

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

B. Why this is important for every man.

(Acts 4:12)

C. How this has changed your life.

(1 Peter 3:15, 1 Peter 3:18)

CONCLUSION: The current Discovery class bears out every single point Pastor Ross has made today...

Invitation...Hospitality...the Word...the Caring Community.

We have been sent into the world for one reason: to bring people to church and then to God through a living faith in Jesus Christ.



Sermon Notes

December 11, 2011 AM
Pastor Mike Ross
"Sent into the World"
John 17:17-19

The Message of Christmas: *Incarnation and Redemption*

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

"Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity. O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee."

INTRODUCTION: In the Gospel of John, Jesus is concerned that you and I believe one thing:

*That God the Father **sent** Jesus into the world.*

According to Jesus, to be saved is to believe in Him as One sent from God.

Jesus **never** lost sight of the fact that God *sent* Him on a divine *mission* of redemption.

This is the heart of the Gospel: *God sent His Son to invade the world, usher in the Kingdom of God, rescue mankind from sin and hell.*

Here is a Christian: The one who believes that God sent Jesus into the world to be our Savior.

And this is the essence of the Christian life: *We are a “sent” people with a mission to the world.*

How is it that Jesus “sends” us into the world?

I. CHRIST SENT US INCARNATIONALLY INTO THE WORLD

Jesus came to *be* one of us long before He *preached* to any of us. This is the wonder of the **incarnation**.

Jesus began his redemptive mission to the world with His own family and His own hometown.

Jesus came and lived among a specific group of people—a family, a town, a region, a nation. He evangelized these people **first**. Samaritans and Gentiles were saved, but only secondarily.

It was tough for Him to witness to them—they were often angry at Him; dismissive, and at times violent.

But at the same time He had a natural connection to them. They were His “kinfolk” - His first mission field. And He brought them to salvation.

This is true also of you: Every believer is a missionary, an “apostle” (a “sent one”), planted in a family, a community, a people group.

God’s primary strategy is to evangelize one’s family and circle of friends.

They will watch you like a hawk. And there is the power of your witness—your changed life that they cannot deny!

II. CHRIST SENT US INTO THE WORLD WITH WORD AND DEED

Luke tells us an amazing thing about the witness of Jesus in the world:

Jesus combined mercy and compassion with verbal witness.

We evangelicals are insensitive to others. Our conservative values, our reformed faith, our evangelical ethics, and our Bible worldview often get in the way of our witness.

Root problem? **We are proud.**

John the apostle makes it clear that the love of God for us not only led us to salvation but should send us out into the world to love others as God loved us.

We do not have the right to speak to people one-on-one as Pastor Ross does from the pulpit.

Preaching is a prophetic gift.

Witnessing involves personal relationship accompanied by dialog, lots of listening, and “sharing of oneself.”

We are called to be *witnesses*. Very few are called to be *preachers*.

III. CHRIST SENT US TO INVITE THE WORLD TO CHURCH

One thing Jesus continually did was to **invite** people into the circle of Him and His friends.

His famous words were these: *“Come and see!”*

Our God and His Son are an inviting God.