Introduction:

Review of Last week:

- Gospel, Church & Culture
- Theological Vision
- Church Planting better reaches people
- Church Planting is good for the whole body
- Church Planting flows from a healthy church

Week 2: Church Planting Flows from a Missional Heart:

Today we will talk about being Missional and how God has called us to be a missional church.

- Mission is the primary responsibility of the church in the world
- The church is God’s primary mission strategy in the world

MISSIONAL QUOTES:

*Every heart with Christ is a missionary; every heart without Christ is a mission field.* Dick Hillis (1913-2005), Missionary to Asia, Founder of OC International (formerly Overseas Crusades)

*Mission cannot be something separate from or added to the essence of the Church. The essential nature of the local congregation is, in and of itself, mission, or else the congregation is not really the Church.* God's Missionary People by Charles Van Engen, 1991, p. 70.

*The church is missionary by nature because God has sent it on a mission in the world under the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is to bear witness to God's redemptive reign. Just as God is a missionary God, so the church is to be a missionary church.* The Essence of the Church by Craig Van Gelder (p. 98)

*God’s church falters from exhaustion because Christians erroneously think that God has given them a mission to perform in the world. Rather, the God of mission has given his church to the world. It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a church in the world. The church’s involvement in mission is its privileged participation in the actions of the triune God.* Beyond Duty: A Passion for Christ, a Heart for Mission by Tim Dearborn (p. 2)

*When the church is in mission, it is the true church. The church itself is not only a product of that mission but is obligated and destined to extend it by whatever means possible. The mission of God flows directly through every believer and every community of faith that adheres to Jesus. To obstruct this is to block God's purposes in and through his people.* The Forgotten Ways by Alan Hirsch (p. 82)

*It's possible to be a missionary without ever leaving your zip code.* Planting Missional Churches by Ed Stetzer (p. 2)
Missional means actually doing mission right where you are. Missional means adopting the posture of a missionary, learning and adapting to the culture around you while remaining biblically sound. Planting Missional Churches by Ed Stetzer (p. 19)

The church exists for the sake of the world....The ultimate goal of all ministry is to reach others for Christ. The Master's Plan for the Church, by John F. MacArthur, Jr., 1991, p. 59.

Our mission has not life of its own: only in the hands of the sending God can it truly be called mission. Not least since the missionary initiative comes from God alone. Transforming Mission by David J. Bosch (p. 390)

Jesus was the first apostle. He was sent by his Father. He, in turn, sent the Twelve. They went to people who would then take the gospel to the rest of the world. Whoever received it would understand that they, too, had been sent. With the gospel being what it is, the church as bearer of the gospel is bound to be apostolic. The Insider by Jim Petersen and Mike Shamy

The essence of any church is its mission. The essence of God's mission is extravagant love, which Jesus Christ communicated and displayed for us on the cross. Lost In America by Tom Clegg (p. 20)

The calling of the church in every culture is to be mission. That is, the work of the church is not to be an agent or servant of the culture. The churches’ business is not to maintain freedom, to promote wealth, to help a political party, or to serve as the moral guide to culture. The church’s mission is to be the presence of the kingdom. . . The church’s mission is to show the world what it looks like when a community of people lives under the reign of God. The Younger Evangelicals by Robert Webber (p. 133)

If we want to be on mission with God, we simply must pause long enough to understand how God is on mission. Only then can we know with some degree of certainty that we are aligned as his instruments and not misaligned as his obstacles. Church Planting Movements by David Garrison, 2004, p. 28.

At the core, it is not the number of activities a church is involved in that defines success, but whether those activities result in accomplishing God's mission for His church. Shaped By God's Heart by Milfred Minatrea, 2004, p. xvi.

It is imperative that Christians be like Jesus, by living freely within the culture as missionaries who are as faithful to the Father and his gospel as Jesus was in his own time and place. The Radical Reformission by Mark Driscoll (p. 40)

It is in the very being of God that the basis for the missionary enterprise is found. God is a sending God, with a desire to see humankind and creation reconciled, redeemed, and healed. The missional church, then, is a sent church. It is a going church, a movement of God through his people, sent to bring healing to a broken world. The Shaping of Things to Come by Michael Frost & Alan Hirsch, 2003, p. 18.
The church was first established and organized with a world-wide mission for a world-wide work. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church* by Roland Allen (p. 96)

The Church is sent into the world to continue that which he came to do, in the power of the same Spirit, reconciling people to God (John 20:19-23). *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society* by Leslie Newbigin (p. 230)

*Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity, But worship abides forever. Let The Nations Be Glad* by John Piper (p. 17)

The Church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning. *The Word and the World* by Emil Brunner (p. 108) (Quoted in Michael Griffiths, *God’s Forgetful Pilgrims: Recalling the Church to its Reason for Being*, p. 135)

Jesus came to ignite a fire within you that would consume you and ignite you. Jesus the King came to fight for your heart. If He has won your heart, then to follow your heart will always lead you to follow the heart of God. He will always lead you to advance forward behind enemy lines to win the hearts of those who do not yet know Him or love Him. *The Barbarian Way* by Erwin Raphael McManus (p. 14)

A mission focus looks first at those who are outside the church before it ever looks at the internal needs of the church. *Invading Secular Space* by Martin Robinson & Dwight Smith, 2003, p. 167.

**The Sending of God**

“*apostolos*” is a Greek word that means sent.

“*missio*” is a Latin word. It, too, means sent.

If we’re going to understand our role in the Kingdom of God, we need to understand God’s sending – and respond to it.

“Mission isn’t the going, mission isn’t the getting – mission is the understanding of the intention of God.” – Ed Stetzer

Our mission is not our mission. It’s God’s. If we don’t understand His purpose, we can do all the right things and fail.

**1. God is a Sender by Nature. He sent messengers to prepare the way.**

*Genesis 3:8-9* - God pursues Adam immediately after he sins and calls out to him “where are you?”

*Genesis 12:1-4* – Abraham was sent by God, both to be blessed and to be a blessing. He
succeeded – well, eventually – because he was obedient.

- He was to leave everything he knew
  - His country / land
  - His people / family / kindred
  - His Father’s house

**Isaiah 6:8** – Isaiah was sent by God and for God – and succeeded, not just because he was willing, but because he understood his task.

- His desire was to be sent
- He begged God “send me!”

**John 1:6** – There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came (was sent) for a witness that he might bear witness of the light John was sent by God – not to be the light, but to bear witness to the light. He succeeded, because he bore witness as he’d been sent to do.

- We know almost nothing else about John except that he was “sent”
  - John 1:33 & 3:28

What does this mean?

- One who sends
- A People to who we are sent

### 2. The Sending God sent His Son into the world – the Second Person of the Trinity – to reconcile the world to Himself

**John 1:1, 14** – Christ – through whom He made the world – was sent into the world as the Logos, the Word. We see this in John 1:14 where it says the word became flesh.

**John 3:16** – God so loved the world that he sent His only begotten Son – that those who believe in Him would no longer be condemned, but might be saved.

**John 3:17**: This is the first time the word “sent” is used in relation to Jesus and his message

- Jesus says 40 times in the gospel of John that he is “Sent”
- Jesus is the “unique Son sent from the Father”
- There is a “missional self consciousness” about Jesus in the Gospel of John

We must think more on the incarnation of the Son of God:

- We must read the gospels to see his missional INCARNATION
- We must read the epistles and Revelation to see his EXALTATION
3. The sending God sends the Spirit – the Third Person of the Trinity

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you” (John 14:26, HCSB)

Embedded in the Farewell Discourse of John’s Gospel (chapters 14-17) are five sayings that speak of the sending of the Holy Spirit.

- And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him (John 14:16-17).

- But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I said to you (John 14:26).

- When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to from the Father, he will testify on my behalf (John 15:26).

- Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you (John 16:7).

- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you (John 16:13-15).

We must think on this reality of God sending his Spirit:

- He sends his HOLY Spirit to such a SINFUL world.

4. The sending God sends the Church – both the corporate church and we the individual members of the body – with this same message. The church is sent to be God’s missionary in the world

**John 20:21** – As the Father had sent Him, so Christ Jesus sent His disciples – now, His apostles.

- Before this there are two other times Jesus sends out his disciples in the Gospel of John
  - John 4:38
  - John 17:18
    - The pattern is always being sent by the authority of Christ in the same way Christ was sent
Hebrews 1:1—“God who spoke in time past to our fathers by the prophets has in these last days spoken to us by His son – through whom he also created the cosmos...” God has a message and a messenger, and we are sent to pass along that message, hence the writing of the book of Hebrews as a means of witness and teaching.

Acts 1:8 -- The Apostles were empowered for witness by the Holy Spirit – to which they were sent. History tells us that succeeded.

Matthew 28:18-20: This is where we get the Great Commission.

Luke 24:44-49 - Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

5. God is sending us for his Kingdom Purpose. We, the church, are His sign in the world to the world. We, the church, are his instrument to deliver His message – and His love.

Acts 13:1-3 – The Holy Spirit said to the Church that was at Antioch “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them”– which the Church did – and “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit they” – went. They succeeded.

Eph. 3:6 -11 – Paul wrote with excitement about the gift he had been given – the sending to share the mystery of God’s eternal purpose – the mystery of the plan of the ages hidden in God.

Romans 10:14 – Paul wrote “How shall they call on Him without belief? How shall they believe on Him of whom they’ve not heard? How shall they hear without a preacher? How shall they preach unless they are sent?” The church is not incidental to the sending God – it is His sent instrument in the world, with instructions to send others, whom we recognize to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for this purpose.

6. We must "live sent" – that is, recognize and fulfill our messenger responsibility in every day life.

W.O. Carver, great missiologist of the early part of the 20th century, wrote of three sources of mission.

- First is the theological source: Missions began in the heart of the Trinitarian God – a sending God – who sends us with His message. We must see the great and glorious missionary God of the Bible. The God his sends his Son at great cost to himself and sends his Holy Spirit into a sinful world.
Second is the historical source. While the Bible is the word of God, it is also the earliest historical record of what God began in creation and brought to fruition in Jesus, and how that message was first spread to the world. Between the scriptures and us is 2000 years of faithfulness in the midst of persecution, obedience in the midst of temptation, and good news in the face of bad. We are sent by God. We are also surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, who cheer us on.

- Read great biography
- Study the life of Paul

Third source of missions: The personal. In this regard we may be like Paul in Ephesians, thrilled at the task given by God to the least of all the saints (and chief of sinners.) We may be like John in the gospel, knowing so many things we could say but choosing to say these things so that the world “may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” But perhaps we all need to begin as did Isaiah – willing to say to the Lord, sitting high and lifted up, “Here am I Lord. Send me.”

10 Simple Ways To Be Missional By Tim Chester

1. Eat with other people: We all eat 3 meals a day. That’s 21 opportunities for church and mission each week without adding anything new to your schedule, and meals are a powerful expression of welcome and community.

2. Work in public places: Hold meetings, prepare talks, read in public spaces like cafes, pubs and parks. It will naturally help you engage with the culture as work or plan. For example, whose questions do you want to address in your Bible studies – those of professional exegetes or those of the culture?

3. Be a regular: Adopt a local café, pub, park and shops so you regularly visit and become known as a local. Imagine if everyone in your gospel community did this!

4. Join in with what’s going on: Churches often start their own thing like a coffee shop or homeless program. Instead, join existing initiatives – you don’t have the burden of running it and you get opportunities with co-workers.

5. Leave the house in the evenings: It’s so easy after a long day on a dark evening to slump in front of the television or surf the internet. Get out! Visit a friend. Take a cake to a neighbor. Attend a local group. Go to the cinema. Hang out in a café. Go for a walk with a friend. It doesn’t matter where as long as you go with gospel intentionality.

6. Serve your neighbors: Weed a neighbor’s garden. Help someone move. Put up a shelf. Volunteer with a local group. It could be one evening a week or one day a month. Try to do it with other members of your gospel community so it becomes a common project. Then people will see your love for one another and it will be
8. **Missional Church Planting**

   easier to talk about Jesus.

7. **Share your passion**: What do you enjoy? Find a local group that shares your passion. Be missional and have fun at the same time!

8. **Hang out with your work colleagues**: Spend your lunch break with colleagues. Go for a drink after work. Share the journey to work.

9. **Walk**: Walking enables you to engage with your neighborhood at street level. You notice things you don’t in a car. You are seen and known in the neighborhood.

10. **Prayer walk**: Walk around your neighborhood using what you see as fuel for prayer. Pray for people, homes, businesses, community groups and community needs. Ask God to open your eyes to where He is at work and to fill your heart with love for your neighborhood.