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# What Is Mission?

Bible Reading: 2 Cor. 5:17-20, Matt. 6:27-34

[Watch LIVESTREAM at 10am](#)

Greg and Diane Dekker, SIL International, and Wycliffe Bible Translators

“Let us go... that we may also die with Him.” (Jn. 11:16)

I (Greg) have frequently said that “Mission begins with compassion.” (Many scriptures describe where “Jesus had compassion on...” people.)

## Progression of commitment, suffering, & service

A. But we can also see a progression in John chapters 11 and 12 of commitment, suffering, and service.

### An example of commitment:

A. “Let us go... that we may also die with Him.” (Jn 11:16)

B. We sometimes picture the disciples as fickle, or wavering between love for Christ and uncertainty of who He is. This statement/verse reveals their total commitment.

### An example of suffering

A. “... If a grain of wheat... dies, it bears much fruit.” (Jn 12:24)

B. Jesus affirms that commitment will involve suffering. And that dying to self-interest is essential to real commitment to Christ.

### An example of service

A. “If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” (Jn 12:26)

- B. Real service to our Master, Jesus, will result when we are able to truly commit our lives to Jesus, and are able to accept that there may be suffering involved.

## What is Mission?

- A. We sometimes talk about “missions” as if it is an event or activity of the Church. It is not.  
B. Mission is the identity of the people of God.

## What do we mean that “Mission” is our identity?

- A. When we come to Christ, when we are born again into the family of God, we are a “new creation” and given a new identity.  
B. The Apostle Paul says, in Col 3:10-11 that we are given “a new self... one in which there is no distinction between Greeks and Jews, barbarians, Scythians, slaves or freemen, but rather, [an identity, or a new self in which] Christ is all, and in all.”  
C. In this new identity, we don’t “do” missions”. Mission, or God’s Mission becomes who we are. It is our birthright in Christ. It is what God through His son, Jesus, has given every child of God to be in this world: Ambassadors to reconcile others to Him!

## 2 Cor. 5:17-20

- A. 2 Cor 5:17-20 says, (and I summarize and outline the verse here):
1. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold! New things have come. And all these [new] things are from God, who
  2. “(1) reconciled us to Himself through Christ and
  3. “(2) gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
  4. “[which is] namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed [commissioned to us the word of reconciliation.
  5. [In what capacity?] “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God!”

## When and where are we to be “ambassadors”?

- A. Are we only “ambassadors”
1. in Lubuagan (like when Diane and I went there), or
  2. on a “missions trip”?
- B. No. There is no separation of “sacred” and “secular”, no separation of identity or activity for the child of God. Your whole life, all you do, is sacred! All your work is God’s work. All your leisure time is God’s time. All your service is in service to Jesus.  
C. Your life is an integrated whole. Your identity is to be on mission for God as His “ambassadors”.

## Is ministry “demonstration” or “proclamation”?

- A. We sometimes talk about ministry in terms of “demonstration” and “proclamation”. Digging wells or doing community development is considered “demonstration” and preaching is considered “proclamation”. But that is a false dichotomy.  
B. When doing the works of God, we proclaim Him. When proclaiming Christ, we demonstrate our love for Him and others.  
C. Ministry is an integrated whole. It involves ALL of our lives, all we say and do. Ministry is both doing and saying. It is both demonstrating and proclaiming Jesus.

## Application: “What are you giving your life for?”

A. Someone once said to me, “Oh Greg, I’m so glad you are doing this work. I could never do that.” My response: “I could not do it either. It’s not any easier for me than it is for you! God has granted me the grace, perseverance, and ability to do this work.”

## Questions:

- A. Questions to ask yourself: What are you going to give your life for?
- For a career and position? For recognition? For family? For wealth? For possessions?
  - For comfort? For honor? For respect?
- B. Or, are you giving your life in service to your Savior? Is He your primary focus?

## Matt. 6:27-34

- A. Consider Mt 6:27-34 “27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?  
 ▪ 28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the enemies of God run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:27-34)
- B. You may be fearful of what serving God means.
- C. What are you afraid of? Are you afraid of what you’ll lose? Are you afraid you won’t make it financially? Are you afraid of the people who will object, even oppose you spiritually and physically? Are you afraid you’ll have to do with less? Are you afraid you’ll have to deal with discomfort? Are you afraid you’ll be ashamed, that you won’t hold up in opposition? Are you afraid your family will think you’ve wasted your life?

## What’s holding you back? Or In what are you putting your trust?

- A. In your own ability? In your position? In your power? In your financial assets?
- B. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
- C. Do not lean on your own understanding.
- D. In all your ways acknowledge Him. He will direct your paths.” (Prov 3:5-6)

## Questions:

- A. Who’s directing your paths today?
- B. In what are you putting your trust?
- C. On what/who are you leaning to carry you and hold you up?
- D. Where do your acknowledgements go?
- E. And from where is your life direction coming?

## What Mission is Not:

- A. Mission is not an activity. Mission is not a trip. Mission is not an outreach. Mission is not a committee of the local church.
- B. Mission is your identity. It’s what you exist for. It’s what God has called you to be.

## Questions & Advice

- A. What is God saying to you?

- B. Is God calling you to follow Him in His Mission in some way?
- C. Don't resist what the Holy Spirit may be saying to you. Is He asking you to boldly share your faith? Is He asking you to go? Is He asking you to give? Is He asking you to pray for the lost? Don't resist His calling on your life.
- D. (John 12:24-26) "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. 25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."
- E. Respond to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. Ask the Lord, "What do you want me to do in service to you, Lord?" "How can I be your instrument in your Mission?"
- F. If God has spoken to you, I encourage you to tell someone. Tell one of the elders what God has said to you. Tell your spouse. Tell a friend. Ask them to pray with you about it. Then, prayerfully take the next step toward answering God's call.