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ON MISSION TO THE WORLD

When you respond to God's invitation to a close love relationship with Him, He brings you into a special partnership with Himself. God has added you to a local body of believers. Together you are the body of Christ in your community. As the Head of your church, Christ Himself is guiding and working through your congregation to accomplish the will of the Father.

1. What kind of People should Christians be in the world?

The Spirit who bonds you to other believers in a local church also connects you to all believers around the world. God's people from every local body of Christ are part of God's kingdom. Christians are kingdom people, and Christ Himself is the eternal King over His kingdom. He "made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father" **(Rev. 1:6)**. In this relationship with Christ as King, you become involved in His mission to reconcile a lost world to God. To be related to Christ

is to be on mission with Him. You cannot be in relationship with Jesus and not be on mission. Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, I also send you” **(John 20:21)**.

2. Did you know you were sent on a mission?

(JOHN 20:21) As the Father has sent me, I also send you.

GOD HAS THE WORLD ON HIS HEART!

“God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life” **(John 3:16)**. God fashioned Christ’s first body by the Holy Spirit and placed Him in Mary. Christ became flesh and dwelled among us **(John 1:14)**. Jesus provided for our salvation through His death and resurrection. When Jesus returned to heaven, God fashioned a new body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. This body is the believers God has added to the church.

3. How do Jesus help us to fulfill our mission in the world?

Jesus now functions as the Head of His body, the local church, to guide it in carrying out the will of the Father. God established each church as a body of Christ so He could continue His redemptive work in the world. When Christ functions as the Head of His church, God will use that body to carry out His will in every part of the earth.

4. Reflect on the following questions. Check yes or no for each.

a. Did Christ know the Father’s will while He was on earth?

❏ Yes ❏ No

b. Did Christ ever misunderstand the Father’s purposes?

❏ Yes ❏ No

c. Did Christ ever fail to do the Father's will?

❑ Yes ❑ No

d. If Christ is allowed to function as the Head of a local congregation, will He ever misunderstand what the Father wants to achieve through that body of believers?

❑ Yes ❑ No

e. Can Christ reveal to the members of His body how they are to be involved in the Father's purposes?

❑ Yes ❑ No

5. Which Congregations has a world mission?

Every congregation is a world-missions strategy center.

A church is a living organism, a body with Christ as its Head. Each part of that body is related to Christ and to one another. Anytime God guides His people, He can impact a world through that congregation. Jesus gave His disciples a commission to "go . . . and make disciples of all nations" **(Matt. 28:19)**. As they obey that command, every congregation becomes a world-missions strategy center. God can impact the world through one church if it adjusts itself to His activity.

IMPACTING THE WORLD

6. Read the account of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-39. Then answer the following questions.

(ACTS 8:26-39)

[26] "An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: 'Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is the desert road.) [27] So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem [28] and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud. [29] The Spirit told Philip, 'Go and join that chariot.'

[30] When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you’re reading?’

[31] “ ‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone guides me?’ So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

[32] Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: ‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. [33] In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will describe his generation? For his life is taken from the earth.’

[34] The eunuch said to Philip, ‘I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or someone else?’ [35] Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning with that Scripture.

[36] As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, ‘Look, there’s water. What would keep me from being baptized?’ [38] So he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. [39] When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer but went on his way rejoicing.”

a. Who guided Philip to become involved in what God was going to do in the Ethiopian’s life **(vv. 26,29)**?

b. At the beginning, how much information did Philip have about what to do **(v. 26)**?

c. When Philip saw the Ethiopian, he was watching to see what the father was doing. What do you think he saw of God’s activity **(vv. 27-28)**?

d. What did the Spirit tell Philip to do next **(v. 29)**?

e. How did Philip find out what God was doing in this man’s life **(v. 30)**?

f. What did God do in the Ethiopian’s life through Philip **(vv. 35-39)**?

g. Based on what we know of the Ethiopian **(v. 27)**, *what impact do you think this encounter could have had on the spread of the gospel?*

Answers:

a. An angel of the Lord—the Spirit—guided Philip.

b. He knew only that he was to travel south on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza.

c. He saw a God-fearing man who had been to Jerusalem to worship. Because the Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah, Philip recognized that a man was seeking God, a man who was interested in spiritual matters. Philip knew that only God could draw a person to Himself like that.

d. The Spirit told Philip to approach the chariot. From there Philip could find out what he needed to do to join in God's activity.

e. Philip asked a probing question.

f. God used Philip to tell the good news about Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian believed the gospel message, was saved, and was baptized.

g. God had a plan for getting the gospel message to Ethiopia. He chose a key leader in the government and used Philip to lead him to Christ. God used Philip's obedience on a single day to carry the gospel to a strategic kingdom in Africa.

Conclusion:

God intends for every local church to be a world-missions strategy center. God will equip each church to carry out the Great Commission if it will be a careful steward of every person God sends to it.

When you adjust your life to God and become a Kingdom-oriented person, He will involve you in His work anywhere in the world He chooses. He is at work all over the world building His kingdom.

God want our congregation to know that we're Kingdom citizens. To experience God and to know and do God's will is to put your life alongside his activity and to let His Spirit show you why that happened in your church. Adjust your life to Him and let Him work through you to draw a world to Himself.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- I am a Kingdom person, and Christ is my King.

- To be related to Christ is to be on mission with Him.

- Every congregation is a world-missions strategy center.

- Anytime God has access to our church, He can touch the world through us.