

The Sent Identity by Heather Holleman

Video ([time top 100:00](#))

"The #1 way Jesus describes God in the book of John is 'the Father who SENT me.'" John 20:21 "as the Father sent me, so I am sending you."

People are motivated (decisions) around "core principles" and sent ones have these 3 Core Principles in common:

1. God is ALWAYS at work to draw people to Himself ([John 5:17](#); [Ecc 3:11](#); [Luke 19:10](#)). You are where you are because the Father is always at work.
2. He uses us to lead people to Jesus ([Acts 1:8](#); [2 Cor 2:14](#); [5:18-20](#)). God's power for us is so we will be His witnesses "to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere!"
3. God continually invites us into the work of evangelism ([Matt 4:19](#); [28:18-20](#))

"Sent people see every situation as a supernatural adventure. We stop doing things *for* Jesus and start doing things *with* Jesus. When something goes wrong, I know that's not the real story. My dishwasher breaks? That's not the real story. I know there's going to be a repair man who doesn't yet know You. Any situation I'm in that I don't want to be in, the Sent Identity says 'you're here because someone here doesn't yet know Jesus...' In your Sent Identity, God doesn't use you in spite of your personality, He uses you *because* of your personality... Every time I heard someone preach on the Great Commission, I felt like a failure, 'if only I loved Jesus more, I would talk about Him.' But when I learned about my Sent Identity, I never thought about evangelism the same way. It's not about something I'm doing, it's who I am in Christ. He is seeking and saving the lost through me. I just wake up and say, "God, you're at work and You use people. Let's go!"

Things that are True of Sent People:

- I. Have a Rich Theology of Place: called to go or called to stay in order to call people to Jesus. They think “God, you put me here” ([Philippians 2:3](#); [Acts 17:26](#))
- II. Are People of Prayer 3 of the 7 ways we are taught to pray for the lost
 1. For Revelation ([Eph 1:17-19](#))
 2. Turn their eyes from worthless things ([Psalm 119:37](#))
 3. Come to their senses ([2 Tim 2:25-26](#))
 4. Send others to help ([Matt 9:38](#))
 5. Open a door for the message ([Col 4:2-4](#))
 6. Give boldness for you ([Eph 6:18-20](#))
 7. God, move quickly ([2 Thess 3:1](#))
- III. Understand their Titles & Job Descriptions
 1. Farmer – sows the Word
 2. Fisherman – casting the bait of spiritual language
 3. Ambassador – doesn’t share his own opinion, just delivers the message from the sending king “take it up with God” 😊
 4. Royal Priest – agent of blessing and proclamation, stepping forward to pronounce blessing in the name of the Lord and explain God’s Word to people
- IV. Leverage their best skills - asking great questions & telling great stories.
 1. People are profoundly lonely and disconnected
 2. We need new mindsets and strategies for better conversations
 3. 6 Dimensions of Being Human
 4. “Most of my dialogues are with activist atheists and they WANT TO KNOW, ‘what do you believe?’”
 5. Best Questions:
 - You know that I’m a Christ follower and love Jesus, what does your tradition say about Jesus? What do you know about Him?
 - Does it bother you that I talk so much about Jesus? This is how it’s gonna go
 - Do you consider yourself to be on a spiritual journey?
 - I just learned something in the bible that’s really helping me deal with _____. May I share it with you?

- I'm trying to grow more as a man/woman of prayer. Do you have any prayer requests? (response: "First of all, I'm an atheist. Secondly, here are my requests")

V. Have Profound Stories of Transformation

A. Can you share (in less than 2 min) a story of God in your life:

- Rescuing (salvation)
- Maturing (scripture)
- Providing (especially in the midst of suffering) – "How are you getting through this? How come you're happy?" How is God meeting your needs?

It helps me take my eyes off myself, to wake up and review these things:

- 3 Core Principles
- 7 Ways to Pray
- Great Questions
- Best skill – story of transformation
- We're all in this together, so let's follow Jesus so He can send us out to fish for people.