

The 7th Sunday of Easter ~ Sunday, May 8, 2016
“Living the Resurrection Life: A Life of Purpose”
2 Corinthians 5:11-21

“It’s not about you. The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness. It’s far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams and ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born by his purpose and for his purpose.” (Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*)

Scripture tells us that we weren’t put on this earth by _____. God made us and formed us and has _____ us for a _____.

“Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

We should not confuse calling for _____.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)

This special work is not only our purpose—it is our _____.

Mission = “A continuing task or responsibility that one is _____ or fitted to do or _____ called upon to undertake.”

“...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. When he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” (Acts 1:8)

We have been called to be those who are _____ into the world. As Jesus’ disciples, if we in turn are not _____ others, our discipleship has been in vain.

“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

Jesus sends us into the world as His representatives—as His _____.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

#1. We _____ Jesus to the world.

We are not self-appointed ambassadors for Christ, but are rather _____ to this work—and the person who calls us is God.

“So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us...” (2 Cor. 5:20)

Our primary calling and purpose as followers of Jesus is to _____ t Him to the world.

As a representative, the first duty of an ambassador is to set a good _____.

“...let your light shine before others, so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

“People who do not believe are living all around you and might say you’re doing wrong. So live such good lives that they’ll see the good things you do and will give glory to God.” (1 Peter 2:12)

We are always being _____, so we need to be living _____ of Jesus’ character and qualities.

“Live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” (Philippians 1:27)

“...lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” (Eph 4: 1)

How well do you represent Jesus?

What does your life say about God to the people around you?

#2. We have been given a _____.

“In the same way that you, Father, gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.” (John 17:18)

The moment we became a follower of Jesus, God gave us a _____.

“Anyone who is joined to Christ becomes a new person; the old is gone. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making all human beings his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends. Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:16-20)

In Christ, our past is wiped out, _____, forgotten. We get a clear _____ and a fresh start.

Our message is that God was making all human beings his _____ through Christ.

Our mission isn't really that _____. It is really very simple: to bring other people into _____ with God.

The ambassador's role is to build _____, not walls. As such, our message needs to be shared with _____ and respect, by seeking common ground with people, and not judging them or allowing our _____ to get in the way.

No mission is more important than helping people enter into a _____ relationship with God.

"I don't care about my own life. The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me—to tell other people the Good News about God's grace." (Acts 20:24)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4:7)

Will we be able to say at the end of our lives; "Mission accomplished. I've fought a good fight, I've finished the race, I've kept the faith?"

#3. We have been given the _____ to speak and act.

"Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness." (Matthew 10:1)

dunamis = _____ power.

exousia = _____ power from a higher authority.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18)

God has given Jesus all authority in heaven and earth—and Jesus _____ that authority with us.

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."
(John 14:12)

Plenipotentiary =

A plenipotentiary is somebody who is _____ to represent a government without having to check back because they've been given full _____ power.

When it comes to our mission as ambassadors for Christ, we are _____ to close the deal because Jesus has given us plenipotentiary power!

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS: A 3 STEP PROCESS

- _____: You share the Good News and tell them what Jesus did for them on the cross.
- _____: You invite the person to respond—to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.
- _____: You lead the person in a prayer of confession and acceptance.

How do you live out the authority that you've been given?

How strong is your witness?

#4. We are called to live and serve in a _____ culture.

As ambassadors for Christ, our real home is not this _____. We live here for 70, 80, 90 years, but we will live in _____, our real home, for eternity. We are only on short-term _____.

"If you call God your Father, live your time as temporary residents on earth."
(1 Peter 1:17)

"during your time of exile." (NRSV)

"during your time as foreigners in the land." (NLT)

We shouldn't get too comfortable in this world—we are simply ambassadors on _____ assignment.

"All that other people think about is life here on earth. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives." (Philippians 3:19)

As ambassadors for Christ, we can enjoy all the good things our world and this culture have to offer; but; at the end of the day, our primary _____ is heaven—and we need to uphold God's _____, and protect and advances His _____.

Are you so comfortable in this world that you have lost your true identity in Christ? What is your primary citizenship?

"You did not choose me but I choose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

You are called to be sent—what kind of fruit are you producing?