



Faith

-N-



Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

The Mission of the Church

“Mission Models” – June 2, 2013

Lesson – The Separation Model?

Scriptures – 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Introduction to lesson

Our understanding of the relationship between the church and the world greatly affects the way we fulfill our mission in the world. As we will see in today’s lesson, God calls the church to be separate from the world. But how far do we take the idea of separation. While separation is Biblical, we must keep in mind God’s burden for the lost condition of humanity. If we separate ourselves to the point that we disconnect ourselves from sinners, how will we reach them with the gospel of Christ? Let’s see what the apostle Paul wrote about being separate.

Key Verse: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Are believers and unbelievers equal (the same)? How are the two different? (v. 14)
- ✚ The word “yoked” means “connected.” What is the problem with believers (Christians) being closely connected with unbelievers? What do you think will happen to Christians who spend too much time hanging around sinful people? (v. 14)
- ✚ Can Christians take part in the lifestyle and practices of sinners, yet remain faithful to the Lord? (vv. 14-16)
- ✚ Why must we be different from the world around us? (v. 16)
- ✚ What must we do for God to receive us? (v. 17)
- ✚ If we separate ourselves from the world and its sinful practices, what does God promise that he will do? (v. 18)

Think about it: Being “separate” from sinners is Biblical. We are called out of the world to be different from the world. But “separate” does not mean being completely disconnected from sinners. If we have no fellowship with sinners then we will fail to minister to those who desperately need the Lord. Separation actually means having no fellowship with the sinful ideas and practices of this world. Jesus mercifully reached out to and ministered to sinners. In fact, he came to save sinners. But he also kept himself from sin – he separated himself from the practices of sinners. God has not called us to isolate ourselves, but rather to carry the gospel of salvation to the lost and unbelieving. Clearly, we cannot be separatists and at the same time reach the world for Christ.

For your free subscription to
Faith-N-Focus for Teens,
e-mail your request to:
sundayschoolserve@att.net



Faith

-N-



Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

The Mission of the Church

“Mission Models” – June 9, 2013

Lesson – The Accommodation Model?

Scriptures – 1 Corinthians 9:20-23

Introduction to lesson

While we must separate ourselves from sin, we should not disconnect ourselves from sinners, if we want to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since separation cannot accomplish the mission of the church, some try to accommodate sinners in order to reach them. Jesus said, “Go ye **into** all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Accommodation attempts to make the gospel more appealing to the world. They adapt the church and its message to fit the needs of the world, so the world will accept the church. Certainly, we cannot expect sinners to bridge the gap and come to us. We have an obligation to reach out to them and help them to come to Christ. But in reaching the lost, we must not compromise the faith and doctrine of the church. Let’s see what the apostle Paul actually said about identifying with the needs of sinners.

Key Verse: “I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ In ministering to Jews, how did the apostle Paul relate to them? (v. 20)
- ✚ Why did he approach them as a fellow Jew? (v. 20)
- ✚ How did he approach people who kept the Mosaic Law (law given by Moses)? (v. 20)
- ✚ Why did he respect them in this way? (v. 20)
- ✚ How did he approach people who did not keep the law? (v. 21)
- ✚ Did this mean that Paul was lawless? (v. 21)
- ✚ How did he relate to the weak? (v. 22)
- ✚ Why did he seek to identify with all people? Why did Paul seek to understand people and minister to people just as they were? (vv. 22-23)

Think about it: Although the apostle Paul ministered to people in this way, do you think he ever compromised who he was or what he believed? Do you think he ever quit being faithful to his convictions? Do you think he bent the truth to win people to Jesus Christ? Although we should do everything in our power to bring people to the Lord, we must never quit being the church that Jesus Christ has called us and commissioned us to be in the world. We are not called to accommodate a sinful world. We are not called to make our message more appealing and acceptable to the world. Instead, we are called to be faithful witnesses in a world that desperately needs to hear the truth spoken in love.

For your free subscription to
Faith-N-Focus for Teens,
e-mail your request to:
sundayschoolserve@att.net



Faith

-N-



Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

The Mission of the Church

“Mission Models” – June 16, 2013

Lesson – The Unification Model?

Scriptures – Romans 12:1-2

Introduction to lesson

As Christians, we should love our neighbors as ourselves, just as Jesus commanded us (Matthew 22:39). In the same way Christ loved us, we are called to share Christ’s love with others (1 John 4:7-11). However, when sharing God’s love with the lost, we must not fail to declare his coming judgment against all sin and unrighteousness. Some people become so extreme about loving their neighbors, they actually lose sight of their first obligation – to love the Lord their God with all of their heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37-38). We can compromise the truth of God’s Word, in order to reach the world. But rather than making true converts, we will bring sinners into the fellowship of the church. What does the mission of the church look like, when the church and the world become united? In today’s lesson, the apostle Paul taught that we must be different from the world. Only then, do we have a mission.

Key Verse: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Ro. 12:2).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ How do we know that Paul’s writing is urgent (serious)? (v. 1)
- ✚ What should we do with our bodies? (v. 1)
- ✚ What one word describes what we should be like? (v. 1)
- ✚ When we are holy in our living, how does God see us? (v. 1)
- ✚ Is holiness too much for God to ask of us? (v. 1)
- ✚ Should we follow the ways of the world? What should be our relationship to the world? (v. 2)
- ✚ How does God transform us and make us different from the world around us? (v. 2)
- ✚ Why must your mind (thinking, perspective, understanding) be renewed (changed)? (v. 2)

Think about it: Clearly, in trying to love our neighbors and attempting to reach sinners for Christ, we must not become like the world, in order to win them to the church. The world’s beliefs and practices are not compatible to that of the church. The world is sinful, but the church is sanctified and set apart to Christ alone. The world is in darkness, but the church shines with the light of Christ. The world is under God’s judgment, but the church abides in the saving grace of God. In next week’s lesson, we will see how the church can function in the world without being swallowed up by the world.

For your free subscription to
Faith-N-Focus for Teens,
e-mail your request to:
sundayschoolserve@att.net



Faith

-N-



Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

The Mission of the Church

“Mission Models” – June 23, 2013

Lesson – The Distinction Model

Scriptures – John 17:6, 9, 11, 13-18

Introduction to lesson

So far, we have looked at three mission models often embraced by Christian groups in the world today. Each model attempts to explain how we should relate to the world around us. While each model uses Scripture to support it, all three models fall short of fulfilling the mission of Christ and the church. Today, we consider the fourth and final mission model, the “Distinction Model: In but Not of the World.” The Lord has sent the church into the world, but he has also set apart his church from the world. In John chapter 17, let’s look at Jesus’ prayer for the church and see how the distinction model works to accomplish God’s mission.

Key Verse: “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil” (John 17:15).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ When Jesus prayed to the Father, who was he praying for, and who was he *not* praying for? (vv. 6, 9)
- ✚ Why did Jesus say that he was “no more **in** the world?” (vv. 11, 13)
- ✚ Jesus went back (ascended) to the Father after he arose from the dead. He left, but what happened to the church? (vv. 11, 15)
- ✚ Why does the world hate us (the church)? (vv. 14, 16)
- ✚ Jesus prayed that we should be sanctified, or set apart, through the truth (God’s Word). Believing and practicing God’s Word makes us different from the world. Although we are not **of** the world, where has Jesus sent us? (vv. 17-18)

Think about it: Jesus has left the church in the world to finish his mission. He is coming again, but until that time we have work to do. We should tell others about Jesus Christ and stand up for what is right, according to the Word of God. Truly, we are not of this world, but God has called us out of this world to be set apart from the world. Because we wholeheartedly follow Jesus and his Word, we are clearly different from the world. Although we are separate and different, Jesus has sent us into the world to fulfill his Great Commission. Thus, we are in, but not of the world. We are called out, but nevertheless sent into the world. The church is like a circle inside of another circle – in the world, but clearly distinct from it.

For your free subscription to
Faith-N-Focus for Teens,
e-mail your request to:
sundayschoolserve@att.net



Faith

-N-



Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

The Mission of the Church

“Cross-cultural Missions” – June 30, 2013

Lesson – The Scope

Scriptures – Luke 24:44-49

Introduction to lesson

Although the earth is only one small spot in the galaxy and an even smaller speck in the universe, it is extremely special because mankind dwells on the earth. How special? “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son . . .” (John 3:16). I know that Christ died on the cross to save me; he came to save my family and friends. But wasn’t his coming and death also for the multitudes I have never seen? Are we responsible for reaching the lost people of other countries and cultures? Who is responsible for the people who have never heard the truth? No doubt, the ones who are responsible are the ones who have heard the gospel and received salvation. Reaching the billions with the truth of the gospel is our missionary responsibility. In today’s lesson, let’s consider the scope (extent) of our mission as God’s church.

Key Verse: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What understanding did Jesus give to his disciples? (vv. 44-45)
- ✚ What specific truth(s) did Jesus want his disciples to understand in the Scriptures? (v. 46)
- ✚ What is our message to the lost? What should we speak in Jesus’ name? (v. 47)
- ✚ Where should we declare the gospel of Christ? (v. 47)
- ✚ Who should be witnesses for Christ? (v. 48)
- ✚ Why do we need “power from on high” (the power of the Holy Ghost)? (v. 49; see also Acts 1:8)

Think about it: We must know the Word of God (the Holy Scriptures). We must know what we are talking about. We must have a clear message, and we must take our message to the world. We are Christ’s witnesses. Look at the memory verse. Jesus said we should go into “all the world” (the whole world), but then he also said we should share the gospel with “every creature” (every person). In other words, we must go everywhere and give the gospel to everyone. The gospel is for young and old, for boys and girls, for both rich and poor, for all races, nations, and cultures. Jesus gave us a complete, comprehensive mission – a mission as general as the whole world, but as specific as every individual person. So we need to take the gospel around the globe, but we also need to share the gospel with our neighbor. This is the scope of our mission.

For your free subscription to
Faith-N-Focus for Teens,
e-mail your request to:
sundayschoolserve@att.net