

**Sermon Theme:** Transforming Society Series  
**Sermon Topic:** Lord, Change Us to be Change Agents  
**Sermon Text:** John 17: 1-26

I. **Introduction:**

If you can be a superhero for a week, who will you be? Why?

Why We May Be Drawn To A Good Superheroes Movie:

- ordinary man or woman transformed for an extraordinary mandate, change agents in tough places
- shadow of the Gospel narrative: Christ is at work and we can join Him to make a difference

***If you are a change agent prepared through prayer, by Jesus from 2000 years ago, would you be ready to catch a glimpse of what is worth fighting for? Why are you chosen from out of the world and into the world for? The prayer of Jesus gives us clues.***

II. **The Mandate of Jesus Is To Make God Known To Us**

a. We are given to Jesus from out of the world know God (vs 6, 24)

- Not because we chose God but God chose us

b. Jesus has power over all flesh and authority to offer eternal life. But He gives eternal life only to those who believe (vs 2, 8):

- Eternal life starts at the point of trust in Jesus, not some time near the dying moment
- Eternal life defines not the duration but quality of life. The life of God in us is good but the best is yet to come when we meet God face to face, forever (Story of lady requesting a fork in casket)
- Eternal life is sharing in the life of God in us – He purposes to infuse His joy, His peace, His holiness in growing measure as we share life together.
- Eternal life is a gift and promise to those who believe in God's name:
  - To believe in His name is to go beyond introduction and beyond superficiality.
    - In biblical narrative, a name is not just a name. It consists of all a person's character and reputation.
  - To believe is to throw oneself into God's character and reputation into abiding trust (vs 26)

⇒ Implication: We are chosen from out of the world to know God. Our mission must be to **deepen our oneness** with Him.

⇒ **Discussion And Application Questions:**

1. **What was Jesus' deepest longing (vs 1 and 5)?**
  
2. **What did Jesus do on earth that brought glory to God (vs 4)?**
  
3. **What work was Jesus referring to (vs 3)?**
  
4. **Does verse 3 mean simply knowing God exists is enough to have eternal life?  
How would you define the "know" in verse 3?**
  
5. **What would you do to know God more and well? What must you change?**

III. **The Mandate of Jesus Is To Make God known Through Us**

- a. We are not of the world but sent into the world (vs 14, 16)
- b. We are sent to make God known **by being one** as the Father and Son are one (vs 11, 21-23).
- c. What it means to be one:
  1. Unity is not the same as cooperation, though cooperation can be an active demonstration of cooperation. One can coerce or patronise someone into cooperation
  2. Unity is not the same as uniformity, as uniformity doesn't acknowledge diversity and differences. Uniformity uses law to ensure conformity.
  3. Unity does not always require the majority as the voice of the majority can manipulate the minority.
  4. Unity does not mean we need to agree on everything:
    - A voiced difference is not necessarily disunity. Silence is not indication of unity. A silent grudge possesses more power to destroy unity than efforts to understand differences and resolve misunderstandings.
    - Superficial unity leads us to believe everything is alright when it is not.
    - Superficial unity lacks God's truth and turns the world away from Jesus. That is why Jesus prayed for God's truth to sanctify us (vs 17, 19)

- d. To stand in unity, the church needs to:
1. Take a hard look at where we stand in our christian relationships at home, community and church.
  2. Take a hard look at “the Father in the Son and the Son in the Father” (vs 21). Unity among the diverse persons in the Holy Trinity is our model of living.
  3. Take a hard look at what it means to have “ Christ in us” (vs 23, 26):
    - “Christ in us” reminds us of his acceptance, his washing, cleansing and justifying us through the Holy Spirit before we could even do anything.
    - “Christ in us” grafts us in union with the Godhead. Who are we to reject others in the Body? Who are we to break the unity of the Body that Christ died for?
    - Our unity is imperative and necessary to showcase God’s love to society
- e. To stand in unity, the church must recognise, respect and overcome differences in the Body. Perfect oneness is the place to meet, honor and protect the uniqueness of a brother/sister in the family of God.

⇒ Implication: We are sent out into the world to make God’s love known. Our mission is to **demonstrate our oneness** with one another in the Body.

⇒ **Discussion And Application Questions:**

1. **What are the two extremes Christians face in regards to their witness to the world (isolation and compromise)?**
2. **Which one is more tempting to you?**
3. **How does being in unity help guard against such temptations and make us effective witnesses in the society?**

In summary,

1. We are chosen from out of the world to know God. Our mission must be to **deepen our oneness** with Him.
2. We are sent out into the world to make God’s love known. Our mission is to **demonstrate our oneness** with one another in the Body.

May God help us all to be faithful.