



## Pastor Mike Hofer “The Shift: Apathy to Empathy” 4/25/2021

### Key Verses:

- *John 17:14-16, John 13:34-35, John 20:19-23*

### Key Thoughts:

- ***The goal of this series is to rethink and understand (1) God’s mission in the world better, (2) our call as a church within his mission and (3) our roles as individuals within that call.***
- ***Sometimes the smallest correction can get us back on course.***
- Even though we have all heard that we are to “be in the world, but not of it”, this statement is not found in the scripture and it needs a small shift.
- We can use this statement as an excuse for us to not rub shoulders with anyone that isn’t Christian. We can separate ourselves from anyone that might need the same message that saved you.
- God has set us apart, but we aren’t set apart just for the sake of being set apart.
- A more accurate statement would be “we are not OF the world but SENT into it.” We are saved to be sent, just as Christ was sent into the world.
- This shift is one from apathy to empathy.
- Apathy is a feeling of indifference, a lack of compassion. Apathy says I can be in the world but separate myself from it.
- John 13:34-35 tells us that it’s not our apartness that shows the world who Jesus is, it’s our love. Love is an action word. Love cannot be hidden and requires action. You can’t say you love something/someone and hide it.
- Without love, we are only people of apathy, indifferent and lacking compassion.
- Empathy is “the art of stepping imaginatively into the shoes of another person, understanding their feelings and perspectives, and using that understanding to guide your actions”. This is exactly what Jesus did for us. He stepped out of heaven into our shoes, and everything was guided by his actions of love.
- Jesus was literally not OF the world but SENT into it. We’re not of the world either, but we need to rub shoulders with lost people to show who Jesus is.
- In John 20:19-23, Jesus had been raised but we find the disciples locked away. They’d been with Jesus three years and see him do amazing things, but when things got bad, they’re hidden. Jesus comes to them and challenges them to shift, to be sent into the world. It’s not easy, but Jesus’ words ring true for us: “peace, be with you”.

### Keys to Understand The Shift from Apathy to Empathy:

1. Jesus has overcome the world – HE HAS RISEN!
2. Jesus was sent and is now sending us
3. Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit

### Discussion Questions:



- Read John 13:34-35 then Pastor Mike's definition of empathy. How do you see that the two connect? What conclusions can you draw about how Jesus expects us to live?
- Can you identify ways that you've separated yourself from non-Christians? How can you begin to change that?
- Which of the three things to understand the shift from apathy to empathy sticks out to you the most? Why?