

MESSAGE #4

MESSAGE #4 NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus feel about the church?
2. How does God work through His church in the life of a Christ follower?
3. What keeps you from loving the church the way Jesus did?
4. How obedient are you in your responsibility as a member of the church to proclaim the truth to the lost?

MESSAGE #4 DEVO

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 17:17-19

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As you sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

DEVO

Much is said today about community, unity, and friendship, but as a Christ follower, we don't merely pursue unity itself, but Jesus Himself. When Jesus is our pursuit, we will grow to be like Him and as this happens we are unified with other believers.

Take a moment and read the words of Jesus in our memory verse, John 17:17-19.

The word sanctify means to be set apart. If we were to switch out that definition in the verses, they would read: "Set them apart in the truth; Your word is truth. As you sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I set Myself apart, that they themselves also may be set apart in truth."

*What are ways you can pursue, know, and apply God's Truth in your life?
(Take a few minutes to write down several examples)*

What keeps you from pursuing Truth?

The Christ follower is set apart by the Truth found in God's Word. When our hearts and minds are exposed to who God is, our lives are changed by the Holy Spirit living in us. We don't change automatically or simply with age. Our hearts, motives, and lives change as we understand the character of God, know His Word, and seek Him to transform our lives. Jesus says that as believers individually and collectively pursue Truth, they will be unified for a specific mission.

What do you think the specific mission is?

Jesus tells us in John 17:18, that he has sent His disciples somewhere.

Where has He sent His followers?

God saves us and unifies us for a purpose and mission - to go proclaim the Truth. Proclaiming who Jesus is to the world, is one of the clearest purposes of what the church is to do.

How does knowing you have a mission to proclaim Jesus to the world change the way you live?

What are things that prevent you from proclaiming the Truth of Jesus?