

Series: Vision 2017 (part 3)  
Sermon: **BE SENT**  
Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
Pastor S.C. Brown  
September 24, 2017

We are in part 3 of our Vision 2017 series.

We have been laying some tracks for our church to move on, giving us some focus for our personal lives and our ministries.

It's my hope and prayer that we will catch this VISION and be:

- A people who **BEHOLD** God daily....to see his glory and majesty.

And as we BEHOLD him we will be transformed into the image of Jesus.

Because.....*"We become like what we BEHOLD."*

- We also want to be a people who **BELONG** to one another. To BELONG by building one another up with the gifts that God has given each of us.

But that is not the end of the line.

We can worship God....we can love him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength...we can **BEHOLD** him...

We can have fellowship with one another and love one another as Christ loved us...we can **BELONG** to the church....

But is that it?

What about our family, neighbors, co-workers, friends?

What about our village?

What about our apartment building?

What about our city?

What about the nations?

**{show pic of Amish}**

Where I am from we have some communities of strict Mennonites and where Amber's family's roots are..there are lots of Amish. They have their own society, their own ways, their own culture, and most of these groups keep themselves secluded from society.

They BEHOLD God.

They BELONG to one another deeply.

But what about society?

We, as followers of Jesus Christ are to love God, love one another AND.....love our neighbor.

**We are to be built up.....to BE SENT.**

I want to be as practical as possible today in the short time that we have. Today...we will look at locally.

Next week...globally.

Let's be honest, if you are a Christian...you know this.

We all know that we are to be telling our family, neighbors, co-workers and friends...those in our sphere of influence....about Jesus.

**We know** we are supposed to be 'reaching out'.

**We know** in the flow of life...'as we are going'...we are to make disciples.

**We know** that God has the church here on the Earth to take the gospel to the ethnic groups of the world who have not heard of Jesus.

We belong to the church by building one another up... and we are built up....to **BE SENT**.

The problem is not knowledge.

We struggle with DOING it.

Why?

If we don't BEHOLD God, if we don't spend tons of time in his word and seek to know him....we won't care much about BELONGING to the church or BEING SENT.

We will not have the heart and mind of God.

So, we have to start there.

But even so, we still struggle. Why?

Turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 28:18-20**.

**16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.**

**17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.**

**18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**19 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,**

**20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

See the two book-ends here.

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

As you’re going, make disciples.... baptizing, teaching to obey.

“I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Jesus has *all* authority in heaven?

Jesus has *all* authority on earth?

Do we believe this?

Do we believe that Jesus is *always* with us?

You see, we can't do the middle unless we believe the ends points.

So, I think in many ways....at a very deep level we may not really believe he has all authority and that he's always with us....

What would we try.....if we really believed that?

We need to wrestle with God and ask him to break us and give us faith to believe.

Believing this takes all of our excuses away.

-----  
*"They won't listen."*- All authority has been given to me.

*"I won't know what to say."*- I am with you always.

*"How will we survive financially?"*- All authority.

*"But, they hate Christians."*- All authority...I am with you.

-----  
But I think for most of us it's not even unbelief.

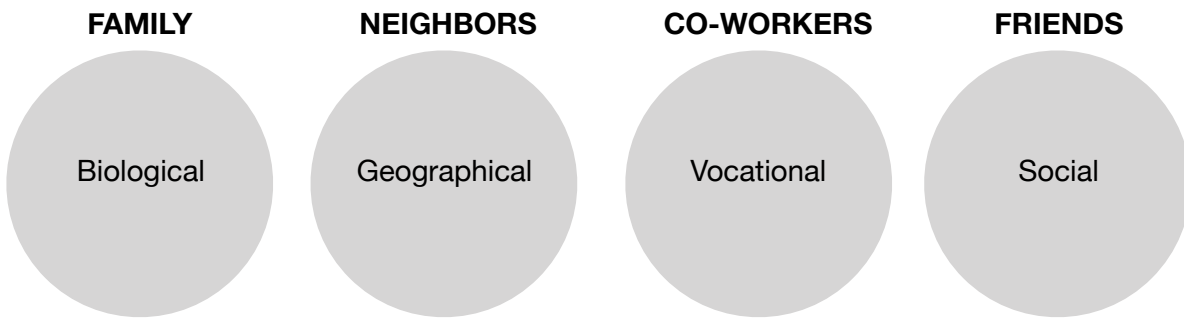
**It's that we aren't engaged OR  
we don't know what to do!**

So, in the remaining time that we have....let me give us some direction on what to do.

We are SENT somewhere.

We all have a **sphere on influence**.

It's your family, neighbors, co-workers and friends.



## **How do we do it?**

- In the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people. Just do something! Show up!

Start a weekly open meal night in your home

Host a coffee and dessert night

Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas.

Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood

Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night

Host a sports game watching party

Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers

Offer to throw a shower for a co-worker who is having a baby.

Make a list of your co-workers birthdays and find a way to bless everyone on their birthday.

Take walks in the evening. You'll meet people.

Frequent the same places. Be a regular.

Cook extra food and give it to a neighbor.

Offer to babysit neighbor's kids so they can have a date night.

Host a movie night

If you have a skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help

- Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working. Praying for people.
- Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Rehearse the gospel!

It helps to go over it again and again.

You can share easier if you know it well.

## The Gospel

**1 God.** God is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1). He is perfectly holy, worthy of all worship, and will punish sin (1 John 1:5, Rev. 4:11, Romans 2:5-8).

**2 Man.** All people, though created good, have become sinful by nature (Gen. 1:26-28, Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:23). From birth, all people are alienated from God, hostile to God, and subject to the wrath of God (Ephesians. 2:1-3).

**3 Christ.** Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).

**4 Response.** God calls everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and trust in Christ in order to be saved (Mark 1:15, Acts 20:21, Rom. 10:9-10).

Church we are to **BEHOLD** God daily in his word and hunger to know him.

And we are to **BELONG** to the body by building one another up with the gifts that God has given us.

By Beholding God and Belonging to the body, we are transformed and we grow in maturity.

But that's not it....God has a mission for us...

God wants to use us to lead our family, neighbors, co-workers and friends to Jesus Christ.

We are built up....to **BE SENT**.

We are built up.....to **BE SENT!**

Where is Jesus sending you *locally*?

to your family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends.

Are you engaged? Praying? Using ideas?

Just show up! Just do something!

**WE ARE BUILT UP.....TO BE SENT.**

-----

This is our vision.

3 Things to focus on in your individual life, family, ministry life, and our church as a whole.

**BEHOLD.**

**BELONG.**

**BE SENT.**