



About the above PowerPoint Sermon Slide...

In John 17, knowing that He would be arrested that evening, go to the cross the next day, and depart from this world, Jesus prays to God the Father for His disciples who will remain in this world. Just as God had given Jesus "words" to give to the disciples so that they now believe that Jesus was sent by God, now the disciples are to give these "words" to the world so others will also come to believe.

Jesus prays in verses 15 to 17: "I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." This helps begin to answer the question: "Why are we here?"

As followers of Christ, having faith in Christ that He has enabled the forgiveness of our sins through God's grace, why doesn't God take us home to heaven right now, instead of keeping us in this world? Why do we remain here?

Perhaps this question can be best addressed with another question: "What are two things we can only do here in this world, that we can't do in heaven?" The answer: 1) sin, and 2) share Christ with non-believers. Which one do you think God wants us to do while we are still in the world? ¹

We do not "share Christ" as a law or good work to get right with God, but as a result of faith in knowing we have received forgiveness of sins and have been reconciled to God because of Christ, and, upon receiving the Holy Spirit through Baptism, the Holy Spirit now "renews us, so that we are able to keep the Law, to love God and God's Word, to be submissive to God in afflictions, to be chaste, to love our neighbour, and so on. Even though these works are far from the perfection of the Law, on account of faith they please God. Through faith we are accounted righteous, because we believe that for Christ's sake we have a reconciled God." ²

We "share Christ" because of the joy we have knowing what Christ has done for us because of God's grace. As a result, we "share Christ" with our families, our friends, our neighbours, and all who are in and of this world. When we do this in faith and love, we honour God. It is God's desire that all be reconciled and come to heaven to live with Him. So, until we "go home" to heaven... it is our joy to "share Christ" with the world, so others will also be able to "go home" and live forever with the Father, and His Son.

¹ Mercer, Tom, "[Oikos: Your World Delivered](#)", Chapel Hill, PA: Professional Press, 2009. p. 57.

² "The Apology to the Augsburg Confession" (1531) from "[Concordia: A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord](#)", St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005,2006. p. 170.