



The Beautiful Community: Mission

Key idea:

The Church is the beautiful community of those blessed by the Trinity and sent forth to spread the blessing of God throughout the earth.

Key text:

John 20:21–23

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Key points:

1. The mission of the Church is based upon and flows from the Trinitarian mission which Jesus came to fulfill.
2. Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit to the Church so that she could continue the mission for which God sent His Son into the world.
3. The primary focus of the mission of the Church is to spread the Gospel to everyone.
4. The mission of the Church also requires us to minister to the physical needs of people.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Have I thought about the mission of the Church as flowing from the life and mission of the Trinity? In light of this series, should it surprise me to find that the mission of the Church is based upon and flows from the life and mission of the Trinity?
3. What does it tell me about God that He sent Jesus into the world? What do I learn about the mission of the Church from the way Jesus was sent into the world?

4. When Jesus gives the mission to the Church, He immediately imparts the Spirit to the disciples. What does that tell me about how the mission will be fulfilled? How is this seen in Jesus' own fulfillment of the mission during His earthly life?
5. Jesus told the disciples "If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven" (John 20:23). What does this mean? Does it mean I get to decide who is forgiven and who is not? Why or why not?
6. How is the proclamation of the Gospel an expression of the nature and activity of the Trinity?
7. Some groups have declared that the primary mission of the church is what they refer to as the "social Gospel" or "social justice" - feeding the poor, working for political change to fight injustice, building hospitals, etc. Is this true? Why or why not?
8. If the primary mission of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel so that people everywhere can hear it, respond, and become disciples of Christ, should the Church be involved in mercy ministry? What if the church is allowed to do mercy ministry, but is restricted from preaching the Gospel as part of that activity? Should the Church still do the mercy ministry, or refuse unless they are also allowed to specifically preach the Gospel?
9. How are works of mercy an expression of the nature and activity of the Trinity?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?