

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of September 19, 2021**  
**The Church is Sojourners**



**SHARE IT**

This week, we are going to focus on what it means to be sojourners (someone who is passing through but still in personal relationships with people in that locale). Question for you: Has there been a time when you or someone you know lived as a non-citizen with limited rights? What was it like? (A week in Hawaii doesn't count!)

As a kid, my wife, Diane, grew up singing a song entitled, "This world is not my home." What do you think and feel as you read the first verse?

This world is not my home, I'm just a-passing through,  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,  
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

**LET'S LISTEN TO GOD IN THE BIBLE**

Have you seen stickers on cars that say, NOTW?  
This week's focus is on what it means to live in the tension of 'being in this world but not of it.'



Read the following Scriptures about (a) our identity, who we are, and (b) what this means about how we should then live.

John 17:14-19

(a)

(b)

Philippians 3:20-21

(a)

(b)

1 Peter 1:14-18

(a)

(b)

1 Peter 2:9-12

(a)

(b)

Hebrews 11:8-9, 13-16

(a)

(b)

As you've seen in the above Scriptures, we are called to a different and a challenging life in this world. Remember this: You are not meant to gut this out, to live in this by your own strength. **INSTEAD:** First, Jesus sent **the Holy Spirit** to live in us. This is absolutely essential – we can only live this out by the power of God. Second, we have the Word of God, the thoughts of God that can speak to us every day. Third, we live this out together. All of the verses you saw above are about US living this truth. We are God's family, His community. We do this together, encouraging and bearing one another's burdens. Third, we grow into this. It takes time for God to mature us, to strengthen us.

So, let's live with the NOTW sticker on our hearts and hands. We're citizens of heaven.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

We heard some big ideas and questions last Sunday. Here are a few worth discussing how WE live out our lives as sojourners and citizens of heaven.

What are some of the tensions we face by living as people "in but not of" this world? What helps you to live out this identity? How does the Word of God help you?

What are some things we do to try to create heaven on earth?

How might these truths affect our thinking about the troubling questions in our culture? How can WE help each other live as sojourners in these troubled times? How are the promises of God essential?

What "good lives" and "good deeds" do you think glorify God in our times? (1 Peter 2:12-17)

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

- Please pray for our global partners who are living as sojourners in other lands
- Please pray for our High Schoolers facing a tough world
- Please pray for our Elders, Pastors, and Directors as they shepherd us