

**Home Group Leader's Notes**  
**Week of September 19, 2021**  
**The Church is a Sojourners**

**Sermon Series:** *Four Metaphors for the Church*

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**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!)

Here are a few examples for me: (1) When I joined the United States Air Force, it was a new culture and I had no rights. All day and night I needed to pray and trust God for whatever would or wouldn't happen. (2) When I was in Cuba and China and couldn't speak the language, I was a non-citizen but also felt helpless. My only hope was that the Holy Spirit was leading, powerful, and would bring about the will of God. (3) My daughter spent a summer in Africa in a place where she had no rights and no outside help when they experienced medical challenges.

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) **Not of this world**
- (b) **Hated by the world, in but not of the world, sanctified in truth (set aside for God's purposes)**

Philippians 3:20-21

- (a) Citizens of heaven
- (b) Eagerly and humbly waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the all-powerful God who will transform us in and to His glory

1 Peter 1:14-18

- (a) God's children, changed/transformed by God,
- (b) Obedient, holy, refusing to conform to worldly lusts, living before God, temporarily on this earth, knowing that we have an inheritance from God.

1 Peter 2:9-12

- (a) A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God, aliens and strangers
- (b) Holy living, here to proclaim the excellencies of God, living as aliens and strangers, abstaining from the lusts of this world, excellent behavior among those without Jesus.

Hebrews 11:8-9, 13-16

- (a) Living as aliens, strangers, and exiles
- (b) Living by faith as God's people and family on this earth

### **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?

Tensions: to become like our world in priorities, worth, values, activities, etc.

Help: to regularly listen to God instead of this world, to be with people also longing to be NOTW, to keep my eyes focused on Jesus and His example

Word: I need to hear God's voice, God's ways, and thereby avoid the trappings of this world.

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

This list is long – we live for safety, pleasure, comfort, excitement, etc.

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?

People know that this life does not satisfy but they keep trying. However, what if they see a different way in our lives? What if we live to differently that we are noticed, even envied?

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

Our culture is looking at social justice but there is much more. “Good” can be godly, living before and for God. The list is long but the point is clear- we are to live such good lives that people will take notice. Some have described this as a ‘soul awakening’- something that opens people’s eyes to Jesus and the good news.

Grace to you all,  
Steve