

Unstoppable

Doing What We Should Do While God Does What Only He Can Do

“Recognizing We’re Not Home Yet”

John 16:32-17:26

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Oct 30, 2016

I. We’re not home yet...but God’s Word points us there for hope and help for today’s trials!

John 16:32 ³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, **for the Father is with me.**

Although Christ knew His followers would desert Him, the presence of His heavenly Father was enough. He knew He was not alone.

John 16:33 ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; **I have overcome the world.**”

Christ pointed His disciples to His sure & certain victory over the world as a way to take courage in the earthly trials they would face.

What about you? Does God’s presence in your life serve you in times of loneliness? Why or why not? Does the fact Christ has overcome the world help you navigate the difficult trials in your life? Why or why not?

II. We’re not home yet...so if we’re going to make the most of our time here, we need to have a “same team” mentality in life & ministry.

Both in Christ’s prayer for his original disciples (John 17:6-19), and in His prayer for His subsequent disciples (that’s us! John 17:20-26), He prays specifically and repeatedly for our unity; that we might be “one” as He is “one” with His Father.

John 17:11 ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, **that they may be one, even as we are one.**

John 17:20-23 ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ **that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us,** so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one,** ²³ I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one,** so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

A. We're on the same team if we are united in our AIM—the glory of God.

John 17:1,4,5

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; **glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,...** ⁴ **I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.** ⁵ And now, Father, **glorify me in your own presence** with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Just like the Father & Son are united in aim, the church also shares in a commitment to the glory of God.

1 Cor. 10:31

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

What about you? When do you find yourself thinking the most about glorifying God? Is it just during your times in the Word? What about at work? How about school? What about at home with the kids? What do you think about the fact that you can glorify God in all aspects of your earthly life?

B. We're on the same team if we are united in our ASSIGNMENT—reaching lost people with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

John 17:2-4,6

² ...since you have given him authority over all flesh, **to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.** ³ And this is eternal life, **that they know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, **having accomplished the work that you gave me to do...** ⁶ **“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world.** Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Just as the Father & Son are united in mission, the church now carries out that assignment to reach the lost.

John 17:18,21

¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, **so I have sent them into the world...** ²¹ **...so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**

What about you? Do you live your life daily “on assignment” from the Lord? Is your heart burdened for those who don't know Christ? What did you allow to be prioritized over this assignment last week?

C. We're on the same team if we are united in our ALLEGIANCE—God's sufficient, powerful, living and active Word!

John 17:8,14

⁸ **For I have given them the words that you gave me**, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me... ¹⁴ **I have given them your word...**

Just as Christ was committed to giving the Word to His disciples, He continues to make it known through us so others might hear, believe, love Christ, and be saved.

John 17:26

²⁶ I made known to them your name, and **I will continue to make it known**, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

What about you? Does your life reflect a commitment to the Word of God in your values, choices, perspectives and plans? What do you find easier or more appealing to share with people than God’s Word?