

# In(to) the World

“All IN”

Various Scriptures

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## Intro

### [Series title slide 01]

First, what a response Central! Wow! I am so encouraged by how our body is responding to the work of the Spirit among us. You are talking to people, collecting information, and signing up for ministry. Here is what I mean. After Marilyn Miller informed the church about the opportunity to serve breakfast at George Jay school just east of the church, I was hopeful. I was excited about this service ministry, but I wasn't sure if we could make it work. Not everyone is available Monday mornings. I was eager to help if needed, but when I spoke with Marilyn again about it, she told me that you beat me to it. She now has a full roster of volunteers right until Christmas! In addition, did you know that this weekend there is a massive group of 40 people from Central who responded to the work of the Spirit in their lives and volunteered to help at Esperanza? 40.

I could also mention the response to our Care Team ministry. I look forward to hearing more stories about how you – how WE – are following Jesus, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, responding to ministry opportunities.

We are invited to be ALL IN CHRIST and ALL IN THE BODY.

Today we are finishing our “All In” series with: All IN(to) THE WORLD.

### [Sermon title slide 02]

We are all sent into the world on the Father's mission and backed up by his eternal promise. To see this, we need to do a brief background check that begins with announcing the promise.

## Body

### [Show slide slide 03]

#### Part 1 – Promise

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.”<sup>2</sup> [Show slide slide 04] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ge 12:1–3.

Ok, ok. We jumped into the story part way and left out eleven chapters of Genesis, but for the sake of time, we'll start here anyway. God announces to Abram His plan to reconcile and redeem humanity through him. There's been a catastrophic break between God and his human creation, but there is hope because God will act.

God will make a nation from Abram to bless the entire human race.

This is not the result of a reluctant God. It's not that God's mum forced him to go to humanity and try to make up. No, the deep desire of God has been and will always be for a loving relationship with his human creation.

From the promise, we can see the result.

## The Result

The result can be summarized by one phrase repeated throughout the Bible.

**[Show slide slide 05] "I will take you as my people, and I will be your God."**

We see it first in Exodus 6:7, but then various versions appear in:

- Leviticus 26:12
- Jeremiah 7:23; 30:22
- Ezekiel 36:28
- Zechariah 2:11
- John 14:16
- Hebrews 13:5
- Revelation 21:3

This is the heart of our Father that is cemented by his promise. "I will raise up a nation through which I will bless the world so that they can be my people and I can be their God." As we read on, we learn that the blessing would come through one who is the representative of the nation, Jesus Christ, which is why we must be "in" him.

But there is more to the story; just like the Father first declared his promise through a nation and then through Jesus, he now invites us all to share that promise.

## **[Show slide slide 06] Part 2 – Mission**

If Part 1 is the promise, then part 2, the part that we get to join in with, is the mission. As I will briefly point out in a moment, it is a co-mission because the Father invites us to join in with his mission. Most of the time, when we think of the commission, many of us go to the passage of Scripture called the "Great Commission" found in Matthew 18. We'll get there, but there are also three other places in the Bible where Jesus invites us to join in with him in the mission of the Father.

I heard author and Executive Director of Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, Ed Stetzer, speak about this, and I like how he summarized the four commissions of Christ. Here is how he summarized the commission:

**[Show slide slide 07] We are sent, to all kinds of people, with a message, empowered by the Spirit.**

Here is how it works:

- **We are sent:** (Jn20.21) “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’”
- **To all kinds of people:** (Mt28.18-20) “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”
- **With a message:** (Lk24.45-8) “Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.’”
- **Empowered by the Spirit:** (Ac1.6-8) “So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

This is the ideal. But the ideal is not guaranteed.

**[no slide]**

### Excursus: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

I want to pause here and address the upcoming National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Because of the way that we all are sent into the world to all kinds of people, we have the potential to encounter various challenges. The history of Christian missions includes some miraculous stories of redemption and accompanying life changes when these challenges were faced well. However, because the challenges have not always been faced well, sadly, the history of Christian missions is also littered with tragedy. Some of these tragedies arose from confusion, inappropriate expectations and from abuse of power.

In our country, due to the abuses associated with those who claimed to represent Christ, the message and character of Christ are clouded. As described in the New Testament, nothing in the Father's mission permits abuse and injustice or justifies the treatment of God's beloved human creations, imbued with His image, who lived in this area.

Our being sent has not changed. We are all commissioned with the eternal promise of God as his ambassadors. However, because of the legacy of abuse in this country associated with the Christian message, we must be extra sensitive and extravagant with our love.

As you know, there are various actions and various perspectives that one can take in this matter. I want you to know that our board is working through a discernment process related to this matter. Please pray for this process.

We must continue to love our neighbour as Jesus commanded, and we must also continue to share the Father's good news that there is salvation, healing, and eternal life found only in Jesus. But as Kate read earlier, it is not just the message that we need to care for, but, like Paul, we must "put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry." To those ends, let's take a moment to pray for each other, for our church and our country.

[Prayer]

## Conclusion

To conclude, let's summarize being ALL IN using three prepositions: in, out, and from.

The Christian Life in Three Prepositions: **[Show slide slide 08] IN-OUT-FROM.**

**[Show slide slide 09]**

1. All are invited to be IN CHRIST.
2. All those who are in Christ are called OUT to the Body (the Church).
3. All those who are part of the Body are also sent FROM the body (but as the body) IN(to) THE WORLD with the message and promise of the Father.

**[Series Slide 10]**

Resources:

- ALL IN CHRIST – we have a leader!
- ALL IN THE BODY – we have a leader, we have the Spirit AND each other
- ALL IN(to) THE WORLD – we have a leader, we have the Spirit and each other, AND we have God's unbreakable, eternal promise.