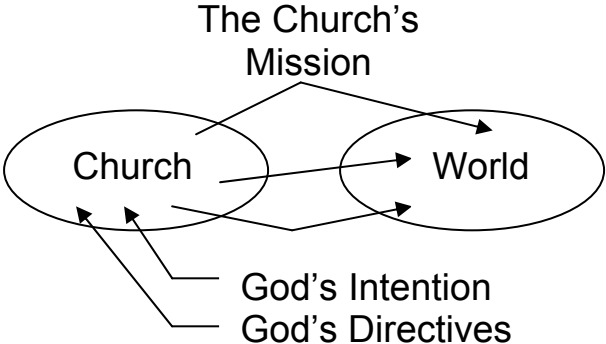
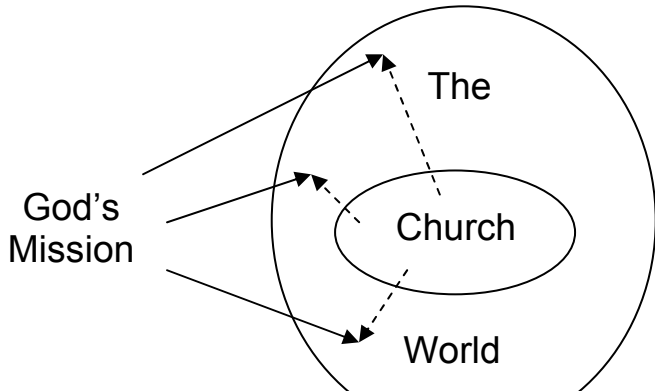


The Changing Understanding of Our Call to Missions

Era	Christendom	Post-Christendom or 'Missional'
Focus	The Mission of the Church	The Mission of God
Our Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are to 'do' missions - Our job is to 'take over the world' for God. - The emphasis is on perfecting the techniques of transmitting the Gospel, with emphasis on controlling, directing, evaluating and impacting. - Missions becomes an 'expert', or minister's task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are to 'be in/on' Mission - Our job is to serve God by helping God to serve others; to assist in God's mission. - The emphasis is on recognizing God's footprints, getting alongside God, celebrating God's works, proclaiming God's redemption. - Missions is a lifestyle for every Christian.
Guiding Biblical Text	<p>Traditional understandings of 'The Great Commission' – <i>Matthew 28:19-20</i> '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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you;'. This understanding tended to see these verses primarily as a job description for missionaries sent 'out there'.</p>	<p>John Howard Yoder, already in the '60's: "As you Go..." has helped us to see the Great Commission as a 'missional' text. <i>John 20:21b</i> 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' and similar verses seem to express a missional understanding more clearly.</p>
Schematic	<p style="text-align: center;">The Church's Mission</p> 	

Adapted from Loren Meade's Video 'The Once and Future Church'