

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Rationale for Our Mission Statement, Pt 1 **Selected Passages**

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PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: At the top of every sermon note is the mission statement for Missio Dei Fellowship. It is woven into every part of the day to day processes and actions of the church. But having a mission statement and owning that statement are two very different things. In these two sermons the people of Missio are exhorted to carefully consider the what, why and how of their mission statement.

I. Introduction.

- A. If you look at my notes for my sermons you should notice that at the top of every page is our Mission Statement. It is there for a purpose. It is to remind me and you what is at the core of this church.
- B. Over the last few weeks I taught you what it means to be missional. Today I want to move us to consider what that means in some very practical but also theological ways.
- C. What I will teach hopefully will be something that will help instruct, advise, and direct you as an individual and our church as a whole.
 - 1. It is my hope to encourage.
 - 2. To correct.
 - 3. To exhort.
 - 4. And possibly rebuke those who hear this.
- D. Let me ask you a simple question. How are we, and more importantly, you embracing our missional statement?

Propositional Statement

Over the next two sermons I want to give the biblical and theological basis for our Mission's Statement with the goal to show the following: First, why it captures the biblical priorities that we as a church must have. Second, how they interact with one another. And third, how I believe we need to work this out as a church.

- E. What follows is nothing new.

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1. And my great desire is that you realize it.
 2. I am not giving you new information, but rather words and ideas that have long flowed from this pulpit into your ears.
 3. As one woman said in her community group, these are all things we have heard over and over, we have just chosen to one degree or another to ignore them.
- F. What follows, hopefully, will be fresh and helpful.
1. I hope I shall lay the necessary groundwork today to prepare you for the rest of these sermons.
 2. I hope these messages will prepare you for potential changes that need to occur in this church if we are to be more than merely a passive participant in the Kingdom of God.
- G. Read our statement.

II. We exist to delight in God.

- A. Such an obvious thing, but is it? Do we? How is this manifest?
1. This is just another term to mean that we worship God. But this still doesn't help us because the idea of worship is so badly twisted today in the American church.
 2. Why does the Church of Jesus Christ exist on this earth? Why are we still here?
 - a. There is but one reason—the spread of the gospel throughout the world.
 - b. As John Piper said it so well, “Missions exists because worshipers don't.”
 - c. All others reasons mean little for they shall be done infinitely better in eternity—without the constant deadening effects of sin to weigh them down.
 - d. Hear the words of Psalm 67 (give key observations of the purpose of the request).
 3. But you may say, “We do missions!”

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- a. True we do missions, but only partly.
 - (1) We support financially missions work in the world.
 - (2) We support prayerfully missions work in the world.
 - (3) But how are we doing in missions work in our neighborhoods, our school-yards, our workplaces, and our shopping centers?
 - (4) Our eyes may be to the ends of the earth, but is it possible that we are lacking that same vision for people who are but a few feet away.
 - b. This is what I have meant when I repeatedly use the term “missional.”
 - (1) When I say “missional” I do not mean “evangelism.”
 - (2) It is more than that. So if you are thinking I am saying we need to evangelize more, you are mistaken.
 - (3) In fact, some may need to evangelize less—at least for a short time.
- B. Let me break this down today by examining the first part of the mission statement and what it means to delight in God.
- 1. Do not check out here. Do not assume you know this.
 - 2. Pray even now that God might open your eyes to see yourself properly in what follows.
- C. What does it mean to delight in God?
- 1. This requires that we understand who God is before we go any further.
 - a. Too many worship or claim to follow a god that is not found in the Scripture.
 - b. This is part of what makes Matt Miller’s 2 part series on the bible in Psalm 19 so important. God has revealed

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Himself to us and we are responsible to know Him as He is. Not as we would like Him to be.

- c. This is so critical in our day for throughout this land of ours right now there are terrible caricatures of God being made in classrooms and pulpits.
- d. History lesson:
 - (1) Early 1900's brought a full-throated attack on the bible. Is it inerrant? Is it authoritative? Can you trust it?
 - (2) By the 50's it was fully embedded in most denominations and the cost was horrific.
 - (3) This led to an ever increasing diminishing of the person and character of God. Which has real consequences that were felt in the American church.
 - (4) By the 70's there was a huge shift in how the Church saw itself. Bill Hybels started a movement called "Seeker-Sensitive" church services. Today that is the norm for churches.
 - (5) Theology and deep, careful exposition of the Word of God was replaced by ever shrinking sermons that were moralistic and supposedly relevant rather than biblical and God-focused.
 - (6) And so today you can go to the larger, faster growing churches and what men use super-soakers to speak of the work of the Holy Spirit. They hand out kazoo's as an aid in making spiritual lessons.
 - (7) What was once a gathering of men and women in the name of Jesus Christ to worship the triune God has now become an event driven debacle that rivals the idolatry you read about in the Old Testament.
- e. We don't know God because we don't know the Word of God.

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- (1) We then make God into our own image.
- (2) The rebuke of Psalm 50:21, “You thought that I was just like you: I will reprove you....”
- (3) Or the frightening words of God to Israel’s idolatry:

“Of whom were you worried and fearful, When you lied, and did not remember Me, Nor give Me a thought? Was I not silent even for a long time So you do not fear Me? I will declare your righteousness and your deeds, But they will not profit you. When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you. But the wind will carry all of them up, And a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in Me shall inherit the land, And shall possess My holy mountain.” (Isaiah 57:11-13)

- f. Too many don’t really know God and shall be shocked to find that He doesn’t know them.
 - (1) Beloved, hear and contemplate the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:15-23.
 - (2) Now ask yourself of which person are you in vss 24-27.
2. We are to be a people who wholeheartedly embrace the terror and glory of His absolute sovereignty.
 - a. We must start there because that is where the bible starts.
 - (1) Genesis 1:1 sets everything into an immovable frame.
 - (2) So let’s start right there. Do you believe this? You may not understand it but do you believe it?
 - (3) Right now in churches throughout this land this is not truly accepted. Incredible lengths are gone to so as to make it mean something other than what it claims.
 - b. Did God miraculously bring Israel out of Egypt? Did He really split the Red Sea? Did every firstborn in Egypt

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really die in a single night by the hand of God? Did God really bring down the walls of Jericho in an instant?

- c. Psalm 115:3, “Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.”
 - (1) In other words, God does whatever He does because it is pleasing to Him.
 - (2) And there is none to resist this.
 - (3) Psalm 33:10-11 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
- d. What causes us so much unhappiness?
 - (1) Is it not that we do not get what we desire?
 - (2) Yet for God, always His will is accomplished, as He desires and when He desires.
 - (3) And our delight in the Lord begins to develop when we realize we are under His glorious and sovereign hand and we can say that it is good.
- 3. Our delight and worship grows when we begin to realize that even evil comes under His sovereign hand.
 - a. Jeremiah writes these painful words as he gazes upon the horrible destruction of Jerusalem:

“My eyes fail because of tears, My spirit is greatly troubled; My heart is poured out on the earth, Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, When little ones and infants faint In the streets of the city.” (Lamentations 2:11)

- b. But then, when he looks to God he then declares,
Lamentations 3:37-38

Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it?
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and evil go forth?

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- c. Surely you will agree with me that Job was wiser than most of us when having observed the massive carnage to his family and wealth and even health, he utters these corrective words to his bitter wife, Job 2:10, “Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept evil?”
 - (1) “. . . In all this Job did not sin with his lips.”
 - (2) He is right when he sees that the ultimate cause was not Satan, but God.
 - (3) **Only one who delights in God as his supreme treasure and supreme delight can say these words without sin.**
 - d. We can weep like Jeremiah but even in the weeping we should find peace. God has not abandoned us in suffering and evil. He is present and even guiding it for His glory.
 - e. This produces hope beloved. Real hope that is not thrown about by every hard thing that comes our way.
 - f. Habakkuk cries out for justice in the midst of Israel’s great sin. God responds by telling that He is sending the Babylonians to punish them. But then He will punish those same Babylonians because they harmed His people.
4. The delight matures in us when we realize that even the infinitely painful and amazing work on the Cross was not ultimately for us, but for God’s glory.
- a. This is key to understand why we are to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to this city and community we live in.
 - b. In Philippians 2 we hear the familiar words to not look out for our own interests but the interests of others as well.
 - c. We are called to walk in humility toward one another.
 - d. And the example we have? Jesus Christ.
 - e. Philippians 2:5-10.

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- f. Is that the end? No! “. . . that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”
 - g. This is why the great prophet Isaiah looks ahead to that great day of ultimate redemption where it is written, Isaiah 43:6-7 "I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth, 7 Everyone who is called by My name, And **whom I have created for My glory**, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."
 - h. Or in the grand vision of the great throne-room of God we read (Revelation 5).
 - i. We are grateful beneficiaries of God’s marvelous grace, but we are never the ultimate goal of it.
 - j. And only when we find our delight in His sovereignty will this make sense.
5. Therefore, we know we are delighting in God when we learn that all that we do is for His glory.
- a. Whether we eat or we drink, it is to be all done to the glory of God (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:31).
 - b. If God has created us for His glory, then this is rather obvious isn’t it?
 - c. And the grand mystery is this. On one hand we realize that this world does not glorify Him nor give Him thanks.
 - d. And on the other hand we realize that even that is designed to give Him glory—as He displays His grace, His patience, and ultimately His justice and His wrath.
 - e. Truly every tongue shall confess Jesus as Lord to the Father’s glory.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Beloved, being missional is something that is really an all or nothing idea.

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1. It is not just vaguely doing some events or being nice to a neighbor.
 2. It is getting into the messy parts of this world but also keeping oneself unstained by the lies of this age.
- B. Being missional means that you must learn how your life in Jesus Christ is simply a completely different life with a completely different direction and for a completely different purpose.
1. A Christian is one who finds their hope and rest in God, not themselves.
 2. They see that through the person of Jesus Christ the powers of sin and death are fully resolved through His death and resurrection on our behalf.
 3. They know He is coming again and that when He does that He will judge all of creation in perfect justice. For those safe in Jesus this is joy and eternal life. For those who reject Jesus, this is to eternal wrath and judgment.
- C. But not of this happens if we do not see the centrality of God in all things. In what we watch, how we spend, why we relax, how we talk, and what we love—all of this must reflect our submission to the sovereignty of God.
1. Not with gritted teeth.
 2. But with a settled joy and delight.
- D. This is the mission of Missio Dei Fellowship. Is it yours?