

*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 2 **Selected Passages**

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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. Read Mission Statement.
- B. Last message I introduced you again to our mission statement. We are all called to be making disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Those who delight in God.
 - 2. To do this requires that we rightly understand God as *He* has revealed Himself in the bible; rather than an image of God that is not consistent with His self-revelation.
 - 3. I drove home in several different ways the fact that the bible is unabashed in describing Him as sovereign.
 - a. This simply means that God has the right to do what He wants, when He wants, how He wants and no one has the right to challenge it.
 - b. Yet what commonly happens is that there is a challenge this basic, foundational truth. Many ways this comes out:
 - (1) Some will say that God sovereignly choose to limit His sovereignty over mankind.
 - (2) Some will say that God is still learning because it is impossible for God to know all things if they haven't happened yet.
 - (3) And some will say that God has given man a free will that God will not infringe upon.

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- (4) Behind it all is the idea that somehow humanity is the one in the “driver’s seat” regarding their soul and their relationship before God. That God would not infringe upon their freedom in some way.
4. Yet the bible explicitly shows God’s control over humanity in every way. Frankly it is seen almost on every page of the bible.
 - a. Where was the free will of the firstborn in Egypt who were killed? What say did they have in that event?
 - b. Repeatedly God hardened the heart of Pharaoh so that he would disobey God’s commands.
 - c. The people of Jericho had no say in their fate. God gave them over to be utterly destroyed with no opportunity to repent.
 - d. Jeremiah has no say in whether he will be a faithful believer or be a prophet. It is ordained as described in Jeremiah 1.
 - e. The man born blind in John 9 was made blind for the purpose of bringing God glory. He has no freedom in this.
 - f. Almost every page of the bible shows mankind completely dependent upon God to simply exist.
- C. Missio does not exist to make disciples/followers of just Jesus. We are called to make disciples of God, who eternally exists in three persons. And this only can happen when we are faithful to call people to trust in the true God as He reveals Himself rather than how we wish Him to be.
- D. So, we exist to make disciples who delight in God But how?
- II. We exist to make God known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
 - A. This is a necessary reality that flows out of the first one. We are to be a people who look around and see fields where we are to be working.
 1. They are our neighbors and co-workers.

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2. They are our wives and husbands.
 3. They are children and shopping clerks.
 4. They are your community.
- B. What will motivate you to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ?
1. Some of you are already very faithful in this.
 2. But as a church do we? Is this true of all of us? And if so, how are we going about it? Does the fruit indicate effectiveness?
 3. The only true, lasting motivation for us to proclaim the gospel must be because we delight in God. And out of that savor and joy comes a desire that others partake in it.
 4. It cannot be done because you “have to.”
 5. It cannot be done because you love people, because people will annoy and hurt you.
 6. It must be done because you are a people passionate about the one true God.
- C. This is the mission of the Church.
1. When Jesus left us it was not without final orders.
 2. Matthew 28:18-20.
 - a. Note that the Father in heaven has given Jesus all authority.
 - b. And the order He gives is to go make disciples.
 - c. How? Going, Baptizing, and Teaching.
 - d. Whom? All the nations.
 - e. Until when, the end of the age.
- D. This is not reserved for a select few. It is the mandate of the Church.
1. Every generation comes, and the mandate is given over and over.

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2. Even when a nation is reached, it must be reached again and again.
- E. Five points to remember regarding evangelism:
1. The method—proclamation.
 - a. This is obvious if you read the New Testament with the goal of seeing what Jesus and the Apostles actually did.
 - b. Luke 24:48.
 - (1) The Apostles witnessed certain key events and instruction.
 - (2) The expectation is that they would then declare what they witnessed to a world that did not believe and follow Jesus Christ.
 - (3) Our job is not to come up with some personal way to tell a person about Jesus. We are to declare what the apostles witnessed.
 - c. Paul tells the men he disciplined and trained to become elders in Ephesus, “For I did not shrink from declaring/announcing to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).
 - (1) From unbelief to Christian leadership the content of Paul’s message was not his cleverness but the Word of God.
 - (2) And we know what was at the core of that teaching because of what the book of Acts shows him doing, calling people to believe and follow Jesus Christ.
 - d. What I am simply saying here is that our role in God’s saving work is to function like ambassadors. We go to the people around us and ultimately we declare God’s message to them.
 - e. If you are being faithful then you are doing nothing more than bringing to mankind the same message that the

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Apostles brought. What they witnessed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

f. Acts 8:26-35.

(1) Has the written word (28).

(2) Wise enough to grasp he cannot understand it on his own (31).

(3) The core of the message was Jesus (35).

g. Romans 10:8, We are to be preaching/proclaiming the testimony of Jesus.

h. This leads to the next point.

2. The means—you.

a. Romans 10:13-15.

b. Remember always the words of Jesus, “As the Father sent me, so I send _____.”

3. The message—the gospel.

a. Romans 10:9-13.

(1) Note that to believe requires content in which to believe.

(2) Here we see the emphasis upon the lordship of Jesus.

(3) The reality of resurrection.

(4) Faith in God’s saving work.

(5) Confession of its truth.

b. Luke 24:45-47.

c. 1 Corinthians 15:1-3.

d. You can speak of it thematically—God, sin, Jesus, Salvation.

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- e. You can speak of it by using the biblical storyline—Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration.
- f. But you must speak/proclaim it.
4. The command—repent/believe/follow (the call of Christ, the message in John).
 - a. Romans 10:10-11, 13.
 - b. Luke 24:47.
 - c. Over and over Jesus would call people with the simple but radical command, “Follow Me.” This is poignantly seen in Matthew 8:21-23.
 - d. “If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him” (John 12:26)
5. The goal—to make disciples.
 - a. The goal is not to get a person to confess Jesus Christ as Lord.
 - b. It is not to get a person “saved.”
 - c. It is to make true followers/disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - d. Colossians 1:28.

III. Simple Suggestions to Consider:

- A. One on One.
- B. Ask questions more than talk.
- C. When a person shares a struggle offer to talk and give your perspective if they wish.
- D. Be aware of your surroundings.
 1. Not during work.
 2. If tension is present suggest to take them out for coffee.

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3. Times of crisis often are not the time to talk, but they give you an excellent time to show mercy and love.
- E. You must open up your calendar.
- F. You must open up your home.
- G. You must understand that this is your calling.
- H. You must understand that the first time a person hears the gospel cannot be when they are invited to church.

IV. Conclusion—how this works out at Missio.

- A. If you and I were sent to deep bush country of Cameroon to bring the gospel to the people how would we do that?
 1. For some it is vague speech that shows a great fear of man over God.
 2. For other it is confrontational.
 3. For others it is theological arguments.
 4. Or it is the passing out of tracts.
- B. But for a true missionary, it is engaging that culture as a fellow human.
 1. Seeking to get to know the people. Seeing that evangelism is not some separate event but rather seeing it holistically.
 2. We begin to realize that trips to the market are not merely for food. Food shortages are not a reason to stock up.
 3. You over look many things because they are not central to the gospel.
 4. You give up many things because they hinder your opportunity to bring the gospel.
- C. Let me try to make this clear to each of us as I pull this all to a close.
 1. Stand if you came to Christ because someone gave you a tract.
 2. Stand if you came to Christ because of street evangelism.

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3. Stand if you came to Christ because a sermon in church.
 4. Stand if you came to Christ through hearing something on a video or radio.
 5. Stand if you came to Christ because you heard the gospel once.
 6. Stand if you came to Christ through a relationship with a Christian.
- D. Our call is not to be jerks. Not to be moralists. Not to be mean spirited.
- E. Our call is to be like Jesus, friend to sinners. How are you doing with this high and holy calling?