

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

Why Missio Dei Fellowship Exists, 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. I want to pause for a few weeks from Acts to teach again on the what and why of Missio Dei Fellowship.
- B. 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.
- C. I want to develop what it means to be missional in some very practical but also theological ways.
- D. 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.
- E. Let me ask you a simple question. How are we, and more importantly, you embracing our mission statement?

Propositional Statement

Over the next two sermons I want to give the biblical and theological basis for our Mission 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.

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.

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2. Why does the Church of Jesus Christ exist on this earth? Why are we still here?
 3. And the answer is to be a faithful witness to the nations of the one true God.
- B. Today we will examine the first part of the mission statement and what it means 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. I have long argued that the loss of understanding language and rules of grammar is a Satanic work designed to undercut the Word of God.
 - b. Psalm 19 makes it very clear that God has revealed 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.

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- (5) Alongside all of this became an increase in personal convictions and personal opinions as the standard of truth. But only if you understood truth to be unique to you. Others can have their truth.
 - (6) Theology and deep, careful exposition of the Word of God was replaced by ever shrinking sermons that were therapeutic or moralistic and marketed as relevant rather than biblical and God-focused.
 - (7) And so today you can go to the larger, faster growing churches and find men who use super-soakers to speak of the work of the Holy Spirit. They hand out kazoos as an aid in making spiritual lessons about the resurrection somehow. They have light-shows and crazy events all to attract and amuse the people.
 - (8) What was once a gathering of men and women in the name of Jesus Christ to worship the triune God and to call people everywhere to repent from their rebellion and turn to 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.
- (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)

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- 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. *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*
 - (2) So let's start right there. Do you believe this? You may not understand it but do you believe it?
 - b. Did God miraculously bring Israel out of Egypt? Did He really split the Red Sea? Did every firstborn in Egypt 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, *"YHWH nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of YHWH stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation."*
 - d. 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.

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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?

- c. Job 2:10, “*Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept evil?*”
 - (1) And then the verse continues: “. . . *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.**
4. As the delighting in God matures in us , we realize that even the infinitely painful and amazing work on the Cross was not ultimately for us, but for God’s glory.
 - a. Philippians 2:5-10.
 - b. Is that the end? No! “. . . that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”
 - c. 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*

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*afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth,
Everyone who is called by My name, And **whom I have
created for My glory**, Whom I have formed, even whom I
have made.”*

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, but also 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.
 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.
 3. But it all starts when you start out with the supreme desire to be to find your delight and joy to be in God.
- 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.

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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 and the elders ask you to consciously join us in this labor?

Benediction

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.