

People matter

I. Introduction

- Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Mat 28:18 &20
- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Act 1

Crossroads Community Church mission statements

To glorify God by encouraging unchurched people into a fully devoted relationship with Jesus Christ
To change Ridgecrest one heart at a time

II. The need for the good news of Jesus-

- Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. Jn 14:6
- For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith. Rom 1:16

A. Sin is the cause of the pain in our lives and in the world

- You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Eph 2:1
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. I Jn 1:8&10
- The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? Jer 17:9

1. Life on earth will be futile and painful-

- Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Gal 6:7

2. Our eternal life will be spent in hell-

- His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. Mat 25:21
- Cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mat 25:30

B. The good news of Jesus Christ-

1. God loves the world, one person at a time-

- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. Jn 3:16
- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I Jn 1:9

2. Jesus came for sinners who were spiritually dead and separated from God

- The Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Lk 5:30

C. We carry the good news of Jesus Christ to our world-

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Cor 5:17

III. We tell others about Jesus in a hostile war zone-

A. A warning to the wise-

- The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it. Prov 22:3
- For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. II Cor 1:18
- In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:4

B. The challenges from spiritual forces of evil in the world-

- Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3

C. The great deception-

- For the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. You hypocrites! This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. Mat 15:6

IV. The power to carry the good news-

A. The power to tell other is from our Love for God and for our neighbors-

- Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. Mat 22:36
- Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Eph 2:12
- I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20

B. Be innocent as doves and wise as serpents-

- “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. Mat 10:16

1. Be innocents as doves-

- You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. 24 For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you. Rom 2:23
- Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Jn 13:34

2. Be wise as serpents-

- Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. II Tim 2:23
- Proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. Mat 10:7
- I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Prov 8:17
- You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes. Jer 29:13
- If anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town. Mat 10:14
- Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. I Cor 6:9

