This is Us: Our Shared Mission

Pastor Kevin Donoho January 7, 2024

Opening Discussion

• What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

College Church's Mission

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

Pastor Kevin took some time to break down this mission statement for us. As a group, take some time to dive deeper into each part.

Thought #1: Every Generation

Psalms 79:13

"Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will thank you forever and ever, praising your greatness from generation to generation."

Acts 2:38-29

"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every info you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Pastor shared some important statistics with us on Sunday:

- The US population has a median age of 39 years old, while most denominations have a median age of congregants between 50 and 60 years old.
- 54% of active adult church members are 60 years old or older.

When you hear these stats, what are the implications that immediately come to mind? How should this information shape the way the Church approaches evangelism?

Obviously, there is the potential for a gap between the Church and the community. How have you seen College Church work to close this gap? Are there additional opportunities you see that for the church? How can YOU be a part of this specific part of our mission statement?

Thought #2: Into a growing relationship

Luke 15:1-7

"Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people even eating with them! So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saving, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!"

Pastor Kevin posed a really important question on Sunday:

What does it look like to go and search for the one?

Sit with this for a moment, remembering the following:

- The one has a name!
- The one needs to feel genuinely loved!
- The one gives us the opportunity to be intentional!

Who is God highlighting as "the one" for you? Perhaps a neighbor, a coworker, or a member of your family. Whoever it may be, share their name with your group. Invite them into accountability and prayer with you that might be intentional and loving as you pursue them.

Thought #3: A growing relationship with Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20

"Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted! Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The commandment is clear: every believer is to go, make followers, and baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It's easy to feel hesitant taking on this task detail in Matthew 28.

- Maybe you feel underqualified.
- Maybe you worry about what others will think.
- Maybe you feel too busy or overwhelmed.
- Or... maybe there are other reasons.

What has held you back, either in the past or present, from fully stepping into the role as believers to go and make disciples? Have you been discipled by someone in your faith journey? Take a moment to share some of those stories with your group. Have you had the opportunity of walking with someone else as a disciple-maker? Share those stories with your group.

Thought #4: So that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

"So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

It's easy to feel the urgency for others to experience God's goodness and grace when we vividly remember how GOOD and full of GRACE He has been toward us. Take some time to remember the things He's done for you, both in the past and right now! Share these with your group as you encourage one another.

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

• Email: Todd <u>tkeller@collegechurch.com</u>
Julie <u>groups@collegechurch.com</u>

***Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

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