

# Meaningful Connection & Mission



We're looking at the next twelve months and we want you do know who we are and what we are doing.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 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. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Mt 22:36–40). (2016).  
Crossway Bibles.

All of life is a process that can shape you into a person who loves well: Will you let the Holy Spirit shape you into someone who loves well?

We want to disciple the church to cultivate and create space for people to connect, give to each other, serve each other, repent to each other, and grow.

## Practicing Christian vs. Practical Christian

It's as if when we look at meaningful connection and mission and correlate them tot he biblical practices that foster that connection, we see two different patterns stand out.

There's a set entree, with an appetizer, a main course, and a dessert, and a practicing Christian eats what is set before them. The chef sets the menu, and we don't try to help the chef and pick and choose what we eat or don't eat. Those are the Biblical practices. They're set by the Holy Spirit and by the Church.

A practical Christian is someone who will do the Biblical practices only if it's practical to their life. "Only if the Biblical practices fit into my schedule and work for me, I'll do them." It's approaching Christian family like it's a buffet bar.



The practical Christian mindset isolates the pastoral staff as the only ones doing ministry. The practicing Christian mindset empowers the body to be the Church practicing the menu set out by the Holy Spirit and the church to build the church and advance the kingdom.

## Teach Them to Obey Everything

Then Jesus came to them and said, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

*The New International Version* (Mt 28:16–20). (2011). Zondervan.

The promise from Jesus was that he would be with us as we practice them. We are not yet at the end of the age.

The emphasis of “*old wineskin Churchianity*” was only on teaching and stacking the person in only head knowledge. But there was a lack of emphasis in obedience and fruit in increasing measure.



We as ENCS wants to set everything we do toward the goal of discipling people to obey Jesus and love others well. This is our true north, and if you see your leaders going astray, you can hold us accountable to achieving what Jesus commanded

## Meaningful Connection, Meaningful Mission

- We want to **engage** people with the gospel.
- We want to **establish** them in family and foundations.
- We want to **equip** them to make more disciples.
- We want to **empower** them to become leaders and to make more leaders.

The idea behind these four E's is what imparts reciprocity for giving and receiving in all Christians, and through that we hope to see everyone building meaningful connection and mission with each other.

## Community Groups

We currently have 16 groups as of @March 20, 2022. We want to see that multiple to 25 groups. This is where establishing in family, leadership development and empowerment can happen.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of **his glorious inheritance in his holy people...**

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Eph 1:18.

There is an inheritance in each one of you, and we can all experience that in the midst of meaningful connection and meaningful mission.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over **everything for the church, which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*The New International Version* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Eph 1:22–23.

The building is not the church; you are the church; we are the church.