

Whatever it Takes!

Name: Definition Church

Mission Statement: Definition Church exist to help people Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, and Do what Jesus did.

Core Values

- **We see redemptive potential in every moment**
- **We do whatever it takes to pursue our God given potential.**
- **We do what's right because it is what love requires**

Today: We do whatever it takes to pursue our God given potential.

When I think about the last 20 years, we have set some big goals, we have taken some big risks, and we have gotten to see God do some amazing things.

- College students
- Youth Ministry/Youth center
- Buying our last two buildings
- 10,000 people for Christ!
- After 20 years changing our name and mission

Why? We do whatever it takes to pursue our God given potential. What does that mean?

1. We must reach as many people as possible for Christ!

After his resurrection Jesus gave the church a mission. "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, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20, NIV**

This is the primary reason Jesus left us here. We are here to tell the world about Jesus!

Matthew 24-25, Jesus teaches his disciples about how the world will end. A lot of what Jesus describes sounds like what we are going through today.

Matthew 24:9-14, World is falling apart but we are preaching the gospel.

Matthew 24:37-39, People live as if Jesus will not return

- **Matthew 24:45-51, Be faithful until I return and there will be a reward.**
- **Matthew 25:1-13, Be faithful until I return and there will be a reward.**
- **Matthew 25:14-30, Be faithful until I return and there will be a reward.**
- **Matthew 25:31-46, Be faithful until I return and there will be a reward.**

The reward is worth the risk! In other words, we believe what we are doing is the most important thing in the world. We believe the Glory of God and the Salvation of souls are the most important things in the world!

We were watching The Greatest Showman recently and there is a scene where the theatre burns to the ground and Hugh Jackson runs into the burning building to save his partners life. When I watch a scene like that, I find myself considering, would I run into a burning building or who would I run into a burning building after; my wife, my kids, my friends. Do you ever think about that? What would you do? The building is on fire! Jesus could return today and we need to work together to get as many people to heaven as possible and when we do there is a great reward.

Hebrews 9:27, Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment

Revelation 20:11-15, And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹²I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Jesus ran into the fire: Luke 19:11, For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Paul ran into the fire. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. ²⁰When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. ²¹When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. ²³I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings."

Let's do whatever it takes to reach as many people as possible

2. We must follow Jesus and help others learn to follow Him.

Our value is not whatever it takes to get people saved. Remember, the mission Jesus gave the church is to make disciples not converts. Conversion, salvation is an important step but it is not the destination. Jesus wants us to help people follow Jesus. Jesus wants people to learn to Be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, and to do what Jesus did. Our goal is not to just help people get into heaven but to reach their full potential here and now. We just talked about this for three weeks but let me say one thing before we move on.

When Jesus met the disciples, He invited them to follow Him. Jesus said, follow me. He did not say, go over there. Jesus never asked them to do what He was not already doing. The most important thing we can all do in order to help those we know and love learn to follow Jesus is to follow Him ourselves. Therefore, we can share out of our experience with Jesus. People should be able to see in us the life of Jesus. That is the end game.

3. What will it take?

If our core value says, "whatever it takes." A logical question would be, what will it take. What exactly are we talking about? What is the mission going to cost me? This is important for us to talk about because for most of my life, following Jesus was socially beneficial. My pursuit of Jesus was admired, applauded, and rewarded. No more! Today following Jesus, may cause you to be labeled an arrogant, hateful, bigot. It may cause people to hate, reject, or attack you.

John 15:18, “If the world hates you, remember it hated me first.” Just think about that. Jesus loves everyone and gave His life for everyone and yet the world hated and murdered Him.

What will it take? It will require you to love! John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- Love Republicans and Democrats
- Love white people, black people, and brown people
- Love people who wear a mask and people who don't
- Love rich and poor
- Love the Muslim, the Legalistic Christian, the atheist, and the prosperity preacher
- Love the Homosexual, the transgender, and the sex offender

Explain: Don't misunderstand. I am not saying any of those people are Biblically wrong. What I am saying, is if we wait until they are right to love them, we are nothing like Jesus and I am so grateful that I have a savior who did not wait until I was right to love me. Love is the very thing that makes people right. When people do what is wrong, generally speaking, somewhere along the way, it was their inability to experience love that started them on that path of self-destruction. What would happen, if we decided to do what Jesus did? What if we decide to love people, lead them to Jesus, so He can fix them? We all need to be honest about something. We need to examine our hearts. In America, now as much as ever, we love ourselves and people like us and struggle to love anyone else.

Luke 10:25-29, yea, tell him Jesus! What is the moral of the story? Do not let your love pass by those who you disagree with morally, theologically, or politically!

Matthew 5:43-47

When my love is selective, I am not sure it is love! If you are unable to love the solution is not faking it. The solution is not pretending to love. The solution is spending enough time with Jesus so your heart begins to break for what breaks his heart. We have to be with Jesus, so we become like Jesus, so we can do what Jesus did?

- **We need to come back to church-** We have done our best, to manage the risk, and for those of you who have health conditions that put you at risk, you have to do what you believe is right. But, I believe after learning all I could over the last 8 months, if we will wear masks, wash our hands, maintain social distancing (which means not assuming everyone wants a hug from you) we can come together to worship. People need community and corporate worship. So, thank you for being willing to wear masks.
- **We need to serve- gives me life and helps me create a life changing experience for others.**
- **We need to give-** You have been so faithful. There is so much to do.

We must do whatever it takes! Because the building is on fire. We have to rescue people who are on a road to destruction and introduce them to Jesus.

Matthew 19:28-30