



## Vision Series, Week 2 - Our Mission Statement

Pastor Rafael Aristy - Sept. 18, 2022

Vision Statement Review:

### **We live to see lives transformed through Jesus**

This vision is our WHY...it is WHO we are, and who we are BECOMING. Without action, a Vision statement is just words. Our Mission statement provides us with action. Over the next seven weeks we will be unpacking the how and the what that will help us accomplish the why.

Mission Statement:

**We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And, we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.**

This statement encompasses how we feel God is leading us to accomplish His mission to our communities and the nations, with our unique expressions and unique opportunities.

Within our mission statement, you'll find our three core values which we call our 3 Pillars; Connect - Disciple - Empower. We will be exploring these 3 Pillars in more detail in the upcoming weeks.

Today we will look at two components in the first sentence of our Mission.

#### 1. We are a **family**

*We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And, we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.*

We all have an idea or view of what a family is.

- Your family experience may have been very hurtful or unhealthy
- You may have a wonderful, strong family of origin
- You may not be close to your family, or perhaps you've lost family members
- You may feel like your spiritual family is your only family

Good News is a diverse *family* that has brought together, from many backgrounds and ethnicities, by our *heavenly Father*.

When we talk about family we are talking about a **healthy** family. One that's there for one another, that doesn't take advantage of each other. One that is involved and committed to the **growth** and **health** of all the members.

In our context here at Good News, a family is a group of individuals from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and experiences, who have been **brought together by their heavenly Father**.

A few weeks ago in our Forged series, Pastor Isaiah spoke on prayer, specifically the Lord's prayer. When asked by the disciples to teach them to pray, Jesus started with "**Our Father**"

- This was revolutionary. Up to that point no one referred to God as FATHER.
- With this statement, He was already showing us that we are brothers, sisters, *family*, and He is our Father.

Another time, Jesus said something else that seemed strange, and even a little offensive.

### Matthew 12:46-50 NIV

46 "While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." 48 He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

This statement might seem difficult to understand, just as it was for them, but Jesus' statement brings to light the importance and closeness of spiritual family.

'Whoever does the will of my Father'. Who is your family? The immediate family of God!

1 John 3:1NIV "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

"**What great love the Father has lavished on us...**" He has *already* lavished this love on you! You are never unloved, and we want you to experience this love through your family.

"...that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

Don't let Satan lie to you in times of doubt, YOU ARE a child of God. As a believer, that is what you are!

## 2. We are **committed**

We are a *family committed to seeing lives changed*. We connect people to God and others, make disciples of Jesus, and are Spirit empowered people who live out the Good News in our world. And, we are each determined to fulfill our unique purpose in God's mission to everyone, everywhere, every day.

Commitment could be a scary word for some of us. Commitment implies being dedicated to something or someone.

### Commitment

n. - a promise or firm decision to do something. Willingness to give your time and energy to a job, activity, or something that you believe in.

- Cambridge Dictionary

In our culture, commitment is at an *all-time low*. We are afraid to commit because we want to keep our options open.

To be a family **committed** to seeing lives changed is to make a **firm decision** that this is what we are **dedicated** to. We are willing to give our time, money, and energy for the sake of the mission God has placed us together for.

What drives commitment in this world?

- "What's in it for me?"
- Is it money?
- Is it what I can gain from the relationship?
- Is it "you scratch my back, I scratch yours"?

In our culture, commitment is at an all-time low

- People living together instead of making the commitment of marriage
- Our return policies are very loose
- Free trials of everything
- **We are afraid to commit because we want to keep our options open**

A great picture of commitment is found in the story of Ruth and Naomi.

Elimelech left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife Naomi and his two sons due to a famine in the land.

- They settled in Moab - Elimelech (the dad) died there
- His sons married Moabite women - Within 10yrs, both of Naomi's sons died.
- Naomi lost her husband, both sons, her purpose, and her livelihood. As a widow in the ancient world, she had few rights and little chance to help herself. She seemed destined to a life of poverty, marginalized by society.
- She heard that the Lord was providing good crops again for His people back home and decided to go back to Judah
- Naomi told her daughters in law three times to go back to their mothers and find new husbands.
- On the surface it seemed better for Ruth to leave her and start a new life

Ruth 1:15-18 NIV

15 "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." 16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." 18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her."

Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. This is deep commitment.

- I'm committed to you no matter the current circumstances.
- I'm committed to you no matter what happens next.

What would have compelled Ruth to be this committed to Naomi besides **LOVE**? She had a chance to leave her ex-mother-in-law and begin a new life...a better life, just like her sister-in-law Orpah did...but not Ruth. She was committed no matter what others did.

John 13:34-35 NIV "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

We are a family committed to seeing lives changed. Why? Because of love!

### 3. Family Expectations/Rules/Responsibilities

Healthy families have rules/expectations/responsibilities

- As a parent, you are expected to work and help the family be financially stable
- You are expected to clean up after yourself - You may be expected to clean your room. If you're younger, to go to school and do your homework
- You are expected not to abuse other members of the family physically/verbally

Different Expectations

In a healthy family, the expectations can be a bit different for each family member depending on their maturity, skills, experiences, and role.

- Perhaps mom does most of the cooking, not because it's woman's job, but because she's a better cook and you don't want dad cooking! Or, some households are vice versa.
- There are different expectations are different for an 18-year-old than a 12-year-old, and a son vs. a daughter.

We all have different levels of maturity, abilities, and giftings, therefore we have different expectations. God has blessed you with something to help the family accomplish the MISSION, it's your responsibility to use it - for God's glory and the sake of the family.

Expectations may be different, but family RULES are the same. They apply to all members of the family.

The Bible has many Do's & Don'ts for our spiritual family as well. (See images)

- Be kind, compassionate, forgive one another, encourage one another, be devoted to one another...
- Don't lie to each other, do not pay back wrong with wrong, do not provoke one another...

### **Just as our Vision Statement without action is only WORDS, so it is with our Mission statement. We must live it!**

1 John 3:17-19NIV "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

This is how we live it!

- We are compelled by love
- We lay down our lives for people - This is what Jesus did and it's what we are expected to do.
- We see a need, we meet that need - Jesus did not ignore the needs of those around him, but he met those needs head on.
- We love not only with words but with actions and truth - we can see how much Jesus loves us because he did something about it and He is the TRUTH!

We are a **family committed**, so there will be expectations! We are a family that loves, that works, and that gives of themselves for the sake of another.

This week, we announced a FAMILY EXPECTATION and an opportunity to take action right away! [Click here to view and register for the Connect Challenge.](#)

Ultimate expectation: We will live out our VISION (why we do what we do) and our MISSION (how we do what we do).

Our Mission together begins by realizing we are part of a FAMILY.

#### **Reflection/discussion questions:**

- Do you think your experience with natural family has affected your view of spiritual family?
- What does it look like for you to "lay down your life" for people?
- What needs do you see that God may be inviting you (us) to meet?
- How can you (we) move from loving with words to loving with action?