

Mission over Comfort

Core 10: Week Nine

I. Our Core Value

Mission over Comfort

We value engaging in Christ's mission to make disciples of all nations, a command which means our concern is not just Grand Rapids, but the world. We seek to continue our legacy of strong missionary service and support, joining in the work of God all around the world.

II. Our Scriptural Mandate

Romans 15:7-24

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that *the promises made to the patriarchs* might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the **Gentiles** might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

*"Therefore I will praise you among the **Gentiles**;
I will sing the praises of your name."*

(see Gen 12:1-3)
("Gentiles" = "nations")
(see Matt 28:19-20)

(2 Sam 22:50; Ps 18:49)

¹⁰ Again, it says,

*"Rejoice, you **Gentiles**, with his people."*

(Deut 32:43)

¹¹ And again,

*"Praise the Lord, all you **Gentiles**;
let all the peoples extol him."*

(Ps 117:1)

¹² And again, Isaiah says,

*"The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the **nations**;
in him the **Gentiles** will hope."*

(Isa 11:10 LXX)

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the **Gentiles**. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the **Gentiles** might become an *offering* acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

(see Isa 66:20)

¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the **Gentiles** to obey God by what I have said and done—¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So *from Jerusalem* all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

(see Isa 2:1-4; Mic 1:1-4)

²¹ Rather, as it is written:

*"Those who were not told about him will see,
and those who have not heard will understand."*

(Isa 52:15 LXX)

²² This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

²³ But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

The Bottom Line

Make _____ Your _____

...by elevating _____ place the goal of extending God's _____ and _____ to all.

...by accepting that this goal requires establishing _____ among all _____.

...by giving up your _____ to either _____ cross-culturally or _____ cross-cultural _____.

Four Terms Related to Missions, and a Clarification (<https://www.imb.org/2018/12/27/great-confusion-missions/>)

1. *Missio Dei* translates as “mission of God” and is used to signify all that God does in the world and all that he is doing to accomplish his objective, the complete exaltation of the fame of his name: “I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Ps. 46:10V).
2. *Mission* has a secular meaning; it often refers to either an underlying purpose (as in the term “mission statement”) or a specific campaign or objective (as in a military or diplomatic mission). But it is also used to define the scope of all that God has given his church to accomplish within the *missio Dei*. It may include all that God has called the church to do in the world.
3. *Missional*—the most modern of the four terms—is an adjective used primarily to distinguish the ministry of the church that happens beyond its four walls, as opposed to caring for its own. Some churches now use the term *missional* where they may have previously used *mission* or *missions*. This term has also been co-opted to describe a specific, progressive style of church that is intentionally outreach-oriented (a missional church or a missional community).
4. *Missions* may be used as a synonym, perhaps a clunky or outdated one, for any of the terms above But *missions* also has a narrower meaning. **It's used to refer to the work of the church in reaching across cultural, religious, ethnic and geographic barriers to advance the work of making disciples of all nations.**

Clarification: Missiologist Gary Corwin, in an article “MissionS: Why the ‘S’ Is Still Important,” compares these four terms along with another one: “In addition, establishing churches among those people groups and communities where Christ is least known has been distinguished over the last several decades as what *frontier missions* is all about.”

