

Title: Gospel-Centered Missions

Passage: Revelation 7:9-10

Passages:

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Introduction:

Trinity Community Church Ministry Vision: to bring glory to God by building up and equipping its members for living out the Gospel in every facet of life. ("Building it up; Living it out")

Trinity Community Church Ministry Values (*how to fulfill the vision*): Gospel-Centered...

Preaching and Teaching, Worship, Servant Leadership, Discipleship and Growth, Fellowship, Living, Servant Leadership, Evangelism and Missions

Gospel-Centered Missions

- God is a missionary God. He sent His Son to bring about salvation through faith in Christ.
- God created humans to share His glory and joy (not out of any need of His)

Overview

I. What is Gospel-Centered Missions?

II. What role does the church play in Gospel-Centered Missions?

III. How do we engage in Gospel-Centered Missions?

I. What is Gospel-Centered Missions?

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Definition: proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and disciplining of others to followers of Christ everywhere in the world.

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Key Problems:

1) God is profaned

- people want to do things of the flesh, not what God wants

2) people are perishing in their sin

- In response, God provided a way of redemption through His Son.

Romans 9:17

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

Isaiah 66:19

and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

Isaiah 12:4

"Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

Key Point: Mission is not the goal of the church. Worship is.

- Missions exist because worship doesn't.
- The goal is to share the passion for God's supremacy.
- Worship: What is your greatest priority in your life? We want everyone to worship Jesus Christ everyday and completely.

Psalms 67:1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

Why Missions?

- It is God's passion that His name be glorified and worshipped by all the peoples of the earth.
- Does this mean God is selfish? No!
- God's Self-Exaltation is ultimately a loving act. The only reality that can satisfy the human heart is the glory of God.
- Loving pursuit of missions is to glorify God in the lives of the redeemed
- We all have eternity in our hearts.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

- Apart from God, we attempt to fill it with God-less waste that will never satisfy
- Only Christ can fill our hearts completely with joy.

II. What role does the church play in Gospel-Centered Missions?

Ephesians 3:10-11

so that *through* the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

- the Church is the means by which the Gospel will be made known to the world

John 13:35

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 17:26

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Church - Three Key Aspects:

What the Church is:

- A local church is a gathering of baptized, born-again Christians who covenant together in love to meet regularly under the authority of Scriptures and the leadership of the elders to worship God, be a visible image of the Gospel, and ultimately give glory to God.

What the Church does:

- The people of God who covenanted together regularly gather, motivated by the Gospel, to hear the Word of God preached, to sing, pray, give and practice regularly Lord's Supper and baptisms. They also care for each other in love and exhort each other to repentance and good deeds.

The Church's mission:

- The over-arching mission for the church, or the final aim in equipping and building each other up is to live out the Gospel in every facet of our lives and make disciples of others - followers of Christ, who will join the body of Christ

How may the Church accomplish missions?

- through prayerful dependence, disciplining, and church planting

Acts 13:1-3

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 15:2-4

And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

Who: The Church must send qualified people to be missionaries to other countries.

- Every missionary should be elder-qualified (Paul and Barnabas were themselves sent)
- Do not send overseas who is not good enough to be a pastor here. We do not send “leftovers”. Poorly-qualified missionaries will cause negative consequences that cascade downward.
- Truth is always trans-culture.

Where: The Church must send people where God is working.

Luke 10:2

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

John 5:19

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

- we should not bypass the local church in missions work
- We should always work with the local church and partner with them as God is working already

III. How do we engage in Gospel-Centered Missions?

3 Types of People:

- 1) Go-er’s, 2) Senders, 3) Disobedient
- Go-er’s and Senders are both equivalent and obedient to God

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Romans 10:14-15

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

Resource: Trinity Community Church - missions:

<http://trinitycc.com/ministries/missions/>

Three reasons why we can be absolutely God’s mission will triumph in the world

1) The Word of Jesus is more sure than the heavens and the earth.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

2) The glory of God is at stake and He will not share his glory with another.

Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

3) God is sovereign and no purpose of His can be thwarted. He will fulfill the task.

Job 42:2

I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.