

I. Introduction: Our mission is to build a community of gospel-centered people as we:

- A. Worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24; Acts 2:42).
- B. Serve one another by exercising our spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:4-6; Eph. 4:11-16).
- C. Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
- D. Live out a biblical worldview in all spheres of life (Jer. 29:7; Mt. 5:13-16).

II. We worship God in spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24 Acts 2:42

- A. Worship is most important. John 4:23 Ps. 95:6 2:11 Ex. 20:5 Rev. 4:10 Rom. 12:1 Rom. 1:20-21 Mt. 4:10 Mark 12:28-30 Phil. 2:9-11 I Pet. 2:5,9
 1. Worship takes place in different contexts. Rom. 12:1-2 I Cor. 10:31 Mt. 22 Ps. 63:6-7 111:1 Deut. 6:4f Josh. 24:15 Heb. 10:24-25
 2. Not all worship is acceptable to God. John 4:24 Isa. 1:14 Gen. 4:4-5
 3. It is very easy to slip into improper worship. Co. 2:23 Ex. 32 Lev. 18:1ff Mt. 15:3
 4. The consequences of false worship can be fatal. Lev. 10:1-3 II Sam. 6:6-7 Acts 5:1-11 I Cor. 11:29-30
- B. Worship is God-centered. John 4:23
 1. Our primary focus in corporate worship is exalting God. Ps. 96:8-9 66:5-7 100:2 I Chron. 16:29-30 Heb. 12:28-29 13:15
 2. Worship also has a horizontal element: the spiritual edification of believers. I Cor. 14:12,26 Eph. 5:19 4:12
 3. What place does evangelism have in corporate worship? 1 Co. 14:24-25
- C. Worship is Christ-centered. John 4:20-21,23 5:23
 1. Old Covenant worship looked ahead to Christ's work through types and shadows.
 2. Jesus has established a New Covenant with new worship. Jo. 2:19 1:29 Mk. 14:58 Eph. 2:21 I Pet. 2:5,9-10 Heb. 13:15-16 9:11 Rom. 15:16 Phil. 2:27
- D. Worship is regulated by Scripture. John 4:24 II Tim. 3:16-17 II Pet. 1:3 I Ti. 3:15 Lev. 10:1-3 II Sam. 6:6-7 I Cor. 11:29-20 Mt. 15:3,6
 1. We are not free to add to, subtract from, or modify the *elements* of worship that God has revealed. Ex. 20:4-5 Lev. 10:1-3 Dt. 12:30-32
 2. What elements does the Bible teach should be included in our worship? Acts 2:42 I Tim. 4:13 2:1ff Col. 4:16 I Ti. 4:1f I Co. 1:21ff Rev. 5:8 Eph. 5:18-20
 3. Worship should be orderly and intelligible. I Cor. 14:26,14-17
- E. Worship is to be from the heart. Jo. 4:24 Ps. 103:1 24:3-6 Heb. 12:28-29 Mic. 6:6-7

III. We serve one another by exercising our spiritual gifts. I Cor. 12:4-6 Eph. 4:1-16

- A. We strive to preserve the unity of the Spirit. Eph. 4:1-6
 1. Our unity is founded upon the truth. Eph. 4:1,4-6 2:14-15 II Ti. 3:16-17 Ga. 1:8
 2. Our unity is promoted by our Christlike attitudes towards one another. Eph. 4:2 Phil. 2:3-8 I Pe. 5:5 Mark 10:45 Mt. 11:29 I Co. 13:4 Jo. 13:34-35 15:12-13
 3. Our unity is preserved through effort. Eph. 4:3 Ro. 12:10-11 Heb. 10:24-25
- B. We strengthen Christ's church by serving one another. Eph. 4:7-16
 1. The triumphant, ascended Christ has given gifts to His church. Eph. 4:7-11
 2. Our pastor-teachers equip us for works of service. Eph. 4:12a II Ti. 2:2
 3. Every believer is to be engaged in ministry. Eph. 4:12b I Pe. 4:10-11 I Co. 12:7ff

IV. We proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Mt. 28:18-20 Acts 1:8

- A. What is evangelism? Rom. 10:13-15 1:16-17 I Co. 1:18 2:2 Acts 2:38,41,47 8:38 10:47f 14:21-22 16:33-34 Col. 1:28-29
- B. Why do we evangelize?
1. First, we evangelize for the glory of God. Mt. 22:37 5:14-16 Ps. 67:3-5 96:3-6
 2. We also evangelize because we care about our fellow human beings. Is. 45:22 Mt. 22:39 9:36-38 23:37 Ezek. 33:11 John 14:6 Acts 4:12 1 Tim. 2:5
- C. What is the content of the gospel message? Acts 2:22ff 17:22ff I Cor. 15:1ff
1. Tell them Who God is: Holy and loving Creator. Acts 17:24-29
 2. Tell them who man is: a sinful creature who deserves God's wrath. Acts 2:23 Mt. 4:17 Rom. 3:10ff,23 Gal. 3:19,24
 3. Tell them about Christ: His Person and work. Acts 2:22-36 4:12 I Cor. 15:3-8 1:18 2:2 II Co. 4:5 5:21 Heb. 1:1ff 4:15 Jo. 1:1ff 14:6 20:28 1 Pe. 3:18 1 Ti. 2:5
 4. Tell them to repent and believe. John 3:16 Acts 16:30-31 17:30-31,34 2:37ff 16:31 Ro. 10:9ff 3:21-26 5:1 Eph. 2:8-9 I Co. 15:2 Isa. 55:6-7 45
- D. What methods of evangelism do we use? Acts 1:8 Mt. 28:18-20 Col. 4:2-6 Acts 1:8 I Pe. 2:12 3:15 I Tim. 3:15
1. Evangelism close to home. Col. 4:2-6 I Pe. 2:12 3:15 I Tim. 3:15
 2. Missions: Proclaiming the gospel of Christ so that God will be glorified as people are converted and churches are established. Acts 13:1-4,16-41 14:23-28
- E. What determines the success of our evangelism? Acts 13:38 16:14 17:25 18:9-10 Jo. 10:27-29 Eph. 1:3ff 2:4-5 Jo. 10:27 6:37,44 Js. 1:18 I Pe. 1:23

V. We seek to live out a biblical worldview in all spheres of life. Jer. 29:7 Mt. 5:13-16

- A. How are we to view our relationship to the world around us?
1. The Bible applies in every sphere of life.
 2. Under the New Covenant, the Kingdom of God is spiritual, not national and earthly. Mt. 21:33 John 18:36 I Pe. 2:9
 3. What biblical examples can help us to understand how to interact with the world? Jer. 29:1-9 I Pe. 1:1 2:11 Phil. 3:20 I Pe. 2:9 Dan. 2:48-49 3:16ff Esther
- B. How can we seek the welfare (peace/*shalom*) of our culture? Jer. 29:5-7
1. Seek the spiritual well-being of our culture. Jer. 29:7b I Tim. 2:1-4 Ez. 6:10
 2. Live biblically in your vocation. Jer. 29:5 Eph. 6:5-8 I Pe. 2:18-20 Pr. 10:4 22:29
 3. Live biblically in your home. Jer. 29:6 I Pe. 3:1-7 Eph. 5:22ff Dt. 6:4ff Ge. 2:18ff
 4. Be a good citizen. Jer. 29:7 Luke 20:25 I Pe. 2:13-17 Pr. 11:14 Dan. 4:27
 5. Do good to all people. Jer. 29:7 Gal. 6:10 Pr. 14:31
- C. What is the role of the church, as an institution, in blessing the community?
1. Christians should be engaged in culture for good. Jer. 29:7
 2. Part of the ministry of the church is to equip and encourage Christians to think and live biblically in all other spheres within culture. Eph. 5:22ff I Pe. 2:12ff
 3. Believers have different callings and will often differ on methodology.

VI. Conclusion. Mt. 16:18 1 Ti. 2:15

Discussion questions

- 1. What is worship?**
- 2. Why is worship so important?**
- 3. What does the Bible teach about how we worship?**
- 4. What can you do in the coming year to grow in worship?**
- 5. What can you do to contribute to the loving unity of the church?**
- 6. What are your spiritual gifts?**
- 7. How do you plan to use your gifts to build up the church in the coming year?**
- 8. What is evangelism?**
- 9. How do you plan to participate in evangelism in the coming year?**
- 10. Write down the names of five people for whose salvation you will pray in the coming year.**
- 11. How are we to seek the welfare of our community/culture?**
- 12. What do you plan to do in the coming year to participate in blessing our community?**