

MY MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY

1. The Whole Counsel of Scripture: As Christians, we need to allow scripture's authority to instruct us what to believe and how to live without exception. Only as we are exposed to the full teaching of the Bible will we savor and Love Jesus Christ and be enabled to faithfully live for Him in our post Christian culture. Therefore, throughout the discipleship process, every effort should be made to keep journeying together through the whole Bible.

2. The Family: God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. As such, we should seek to minister to whole families and integrate their active care into the discipleship of other family members. Healthy families are the foundation for healthier communities, which lead to a healthier society.

3. Missionally Engaged: Each Christian is called to adopt the thinking, behaviors, and practices of a missionary in order to share the gospel message in every way possible in the local context (1 Cor. 9:19-23). Every Christian is already sent (Matt 28:19-20; John 20:21). Every child of God is ambassador for Christ with the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:20). Scripture determines the unshakable principles of missional living, while some of the methods that are to be employed in meaningfully engaging people with the gospel are flexible. Being "missionally" engaged consists of defending, declaring, demonstrating and celebrating the gospel with our words, works of compassion, stewardship, giving, and prayers. Because God is a relational Trinity, people deeply matter to God. Jesus' mission was and is relational. Therefore, we too should emphasize and practice relational evangelism in the local community as the primary way, though not exclusive way, of spreading the gospel and making disciples. God the Son humbly incarnated himself to the world as the perfect God man on a rescue mission to dwell among lost sinners "doing life" with them in real relationships. He was tempted in every way, yet without sin, and spent much of His time "doing life on life" with His disciples. This too is the Christian's primary model of introducing people to Christ and his claims. God is a missionary God who established His church for the purpose of fulfilling his mission of redemption and restoration in Christ to the world.

4. Jesus and His Work: The whole narrative of scripture revolves around Christ. He is the hero. His atoning work in His gospel and person are together the culmination of the fullness of God's glory in all His sovereignty, wisdom, power, honor, mercy, justice, grace, faithfulness, goodness, victory and holiness! The gospel is the clearest and most complete picture we have of God at once. Jesus and His gospel simply can't be overemphasized, should never become peripheral in life or ministry, and must never get neglected after conversion as if we can somehow move beyond it. Motivating believers to love, good works, and godliness in discipleship starts with and is sustained by gospel-rooted grace that grounds us in our identity in Christ. Because the Holy Spirit came to glorify the person and work of Christ, we should aim to instill a passion for Him. The true measure of success cannot be measured by numbers or budgets alone, but by whether people come to understand and worship Jesus Christ, rejoice in His redemptive work and are actively engaged in His ongoing mission of spreading the Gospel and making disciples.

5. Good Works: Faith in Christ alone, by grace alone is the sole condition of justification, but good works and righteous living should accompany such faith and furnish evidence of its existence (Ephesians 2:8-10). The grace of God which brings salvation and teaches believers the life of sanctification is also the same grace that makes His people zealous for good works (Titus 2:11-14). Because we've been saved by grace alone, God inseparably links good works to our daily relationship of faith with himself and others. Faith initiates and precedes good works. Faith without works is dead (James 2).

6. Servanthood: Greatness is measured by how well we serve Jesus Christ, His church, and the world with a humble and submissive attitude "esteeming others better than ourselves." "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all".

7. Stewardship: God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, material possessions, and spiritual gifts; and should recognize all these are entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should give of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of Christ's cause on earth.

8. Pro- Life: the Bible strongly affirms the dignity and value of every human life based on what the Scriptures clearly teach: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). "My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth" (Psalm 139:15). "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit" (Luke 1:41). To further differentiate mankind from any other living creature, we read: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). Unlike any other created being, Scripture also teaches: "Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

9. Community with God, each other, and the lost matters: First of all, we were created to be in community with, enjoy and glorify God forever. Secondly, as an extension of this community with God, we are instructed to live deeply with one another in Koinonia-celebrating our victories, carrying one another's burdens, and exhorting one another "to love and good deeds". Lastly, we are a gospel community together on God's mission. Therefore, we should endeavor to proclaim God's redeeming truth and live lives that are worthy of the gospel to the community God has placed us in by every means possible.

10. Unity with Each Other: All Christians have different personalities, skills, experiences, spiritual gifts and even slightly different approaches to interpreting the scriptures. Therefore, we must be diligent to humbly themselves. We are commanded to zealously love, forgive, and serve one another and to seek out reconciliation lest we bite and devour one another. Allowing any place for sinful resentment or division to occur is never acceptable because it harms fellowship with God and each other. (Eph. 4:30-32; Galatians 5:13-15; 1 Peter 1:22 and Heb. 2:14 and Matt. 18:32-35).

11. Unity and Cooperation with Other Churches: Even though Christians differ on issues such as baptism, communion, eschatology, church government, and spiritual gifts, these are peripheral issues that should not divide us, thus hindering us from fulfilling the great commission together. We should eagerly, yet carefully, pursue cooperation with other Christian churches who hold to the scriptures as their authority in evangelism, intercessory prayer, and serving to the poor. What is commonly known as "sheep stealing" is not the intention, nor is it right when cooperating with other churches for outreach or worship. It must be avoided. However, for gospel saturation to take place, the whole Church (many local congregations) is needed in taking the gospel to the whole world, starting locally. Discipleship should be done separately in local congregations. The Lausanne Covenant <https://www.lausanne.org/content/covenant/lausanne-covenant> is an exemplary document for cooperation with other evangelical churches in local and world evangelism.

12. Accountability:

Christians: Every Believer is accountable to God, each other, and the elders of their church. This sharpens an already effective ministry and protects from the shame that sinful and/or careless living can bring on the body of Christ.

Pastors: Even though pastors should be respected, obeyed, honored and imitated for their faith, way of life, diligence in the word, worship and other Gospel ministry (Hebrews 13:7;17), they are still only under-shepherds and fellow elders. They are under the authority of the Chief Shepherd. They ultimately serve Him and are accountable to him and the other elders. Pastors must be servant leaders, not domineering overlords, who exercise oversight willingly, not for shameful gain nor under compulsion. They to be examples to the flock (2 Cor. 5:9-10 and 1 Peter 5:1-4).

13. The Holy Spirit: He is coeternally God with the Father and the Son. He is Christ's promise and the Father's good gift to His children at their conversion. We must have Spirit filled and Spirit led ministries to bear fruit that will last and see lives changed. The Holy Spirit is our source of all power and spiritual life. He glorifies Jesus Christ. God has designed the Christian way of life as one in which we are to be joyfully and fully surrendered to, filled with, transformed by, dependent on, controlled by, empowered with, and led by the Holy Spirit every day. He alone helps us become bold witnesses, overcome personal sin, live godly lives, trust God through our trials, understand and obey the scriptures, know God intimately, pray and worship rightly, and use the gifts of the Spirit for loving others sacrificially and glorifying God. His ministry and gifts should be welcomed and sought, not feared.

14. Excellence: In whatever we do, we should strive to do all of it to the glory of God. A church that seeks excellence does so because God is worthy of its best effort. This reflects the beauty and perfection of God himself. This is a subcategory of worshipping God who deserves our utmost effort for His highest honor.

15. Prayer: The fire, fortitude and maturity of any local church and the ministry it produces comes from the prayers of her members. Only by being saturated in a frequent, united, believing, sincere, humble, biblical prayer and occasional seasons or special corporate calls to fasting, can we know enjoy and glorify God, be increasingly effective in ministry, and

faithful to his upward call, both individually and corporately. The core job of biblical leaders is to prioritize the word of God and prayer and to mobilize the church to pray together (Acts 6). The members of the church's job should make themselves available when called on to pray