

Pastoral Care & Mission

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will [fn5] believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Community groups need to be a primary ministry within our church.

God uses His people to accomplish His purposes.

The three primary functions - discipleship, pastoral care, and mission.

1. DISCIPLESHIP

Matt 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore [fn3] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. [fn4]

A disciple is defined broadly as a "learner."

Facilitating discipleship is one of the responsibilities of the church leadership.

Discipleship is hard work, but it is also a joy to participate in the redemptive work of God.

Maybe thinking not me - I'm not ready, not prepared - He has prepared - will enable by the power of the Holy Spirit - will provide - will produce - step out and find out - fruit of faith

Discipleship is about providing a means by which we begin to shepherd/lead/guide in Love - people in the direction of maturity.

Transformation Cycle

The goal of discipleship is to see the lives of people transformed by the gospel.

Gathered church on Sunday and the scattered church during the week - need to be working together for the same goal.

Analogy of the air war and the ground war. - What does it look like if they are disconnected?

Sunday service is the air war, going first to proclaim the gospel to the believer and the world

The ground war is **hands-on ministry of the church to one another and to the lost.**

God's Word taught brings about conviction and prepares the hearts of the church to call one another to repentance and good works on the ground, which God has prepared for us.

If the air war and ground war are not connected - both become less effective in changing lives.

Community groups can be understood as the incarnation ministry of the church. In other words, where what we learn gets fleshed out in our lives.

2. PASTORAL CARE

Honestly - even in a small church like ours - Pastor Dad - Pastor Dude - Professional Educator - how many people can a pastor really pastor well? Could make a strong argument for 12 - Jesus

Average members and attendees basically to fend for themselves spiritually.

As a pastor, I take seriously the fact that I will give an account for the flock entrusted to me by Jesus.

Heb. 13:17 - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account.

Solution - Biblical precedent for delegating.

17 So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. 18 Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. 19 Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. 20 And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. 22 And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

24 So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

We see the same thing in Acts as the disciples delegate care of the widows to deacons and establish elders to lead local congregations.

Acts 6:1-6 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, [fn1] because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the

disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Central to this principle is that they found a way to ensure pastoral care for the entire church.

Titus 1:5 - 5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you

By delegating authority to community group leaders, I believe that every person that is active in a community group is being cared for and is caring for others.

Community groups are not to be another Bible study or a social group, they have a responsibility for the ongoing growth and care of the church.

Therefore the leaders must be trustworthy and qualified to care for the people.

Sounds like you are trying to abdicate yourself of your responsibility - actually I am trying to be realistic and more responsible - I plan to co-lead a community group as well as the leaders of CGs.

One to one counseling will still happen, but we want the majority of pastoral care to take place as the church loves one another and lives out the gospel together.

Community groups are the front line for pastoral care.

Church can also provide special temporary community groups - addiction, marriage, family, finances.

There are over fifty verses in the New Testament alone on how we are to minister to one another, from loving one another to correcting and rebuking one another in love.

Love

- "Love one another." John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17
- "Owe no one anything, except to love each other." Rom. 13:8
- "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all..." 1 Thess. 3:12

- "For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another." Galatians 5:14-15

Peace

- "Be at peace with each other." Mark 9:50

- “Live in harmony with one another.” Rom. 12:16
- “And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” James 3:18

Hospitality

- “Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” 1 Peter 4:9
- “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Romans 12:13
- “When you come together to eat, wait for one another.” 1 Cor. 11:33

Service

- “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...” 1 Peter 4:10
- “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Gal. 5:13
- “Wash one another's feet.” John 13:14

Instruction

- “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Col. 3:16
- “I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.” Romans 15:14

Care

- “Bear one another's burdens.” Gal. 6:2
- “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” Rom. 12:10
- “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Rom. 15:7
- “... that the members may have the same care for one another.” 1 Cor. 12:25

Forgiveness

- “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32
- “If one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” Col. 3:13

Submission

- “... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Eph. 5:21

Encouragement

- “Encourage one another.” 1 Thess. 4:18, 5:11; Heb. 10:25
- “Build one another up.” 1 Thess. 5:11
- “Exhort one another every day.” Heb. 3:13
- “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” Heb. 10:24

Honesty

- “Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices...” Col. 3:9
- “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another...” James 5:16

3. MISSION

Ed Stetzer has said, “One of the reasons many believers are unengaged in mission is because they are unengaged in community.”

1 Peter 2:12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

The purpose of the church is to be an effective tool for the mission of God.

God has always used His people to proclaim His glory.

We were created to bear his image and proclaim his glory.

People have always been the greatest asset of the church.

God has continually called his people to be a **“sign and instrument of his kingdom.”**

Money is helpful and technology is great, but God has chosen to use his people to accomplish his mission.

The people of God, however, have relational connections to the people of our cities in all the nooks and crannies.

Being in mission isn't for a chosen few - it is for the **“WHOLE CHURCH”**

When the gospel is lived out in community, we find our identity in Jesus; we are compelled to worship God, love one another, and have compassion for the lost.

What does it mean to be a church on mission?

Rom 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, Rom 15:6 that you may with one mind [and] one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as we exist as image bearers of God, so the church exists to reflect his goodness and to call people to worship him as we make disciples and proclaim the gospel.

Our communities become places we want others to experience. We want our friends and neighbors to be transformed by Jesus, and they become a source of missional growth for the church.

Missions should not be a hobby of the church. When we understand the mission of God, we realize that it is the mission that has a church, not the church that has the mission.

The work of the church is the mission of God. In response to the grace we have received, we get to share the good news and radical truth of Jesus and what he has done.

2Cr 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Missional = to participate in the mission of God as a response to the gospel through proclamation and practice - sent to show and sent to save

Truth & love together you have to be on mission - person in peril - no truth or no love = no mission

We are to proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ in word and action. Not judgmentally, but as believers who remember what it was like to be lost.

Peter reminds us that once we were lost, once we were isolated and not a people, once we had not received mercy; but now, through Jesus, we have been found.

To be on mission with Jesus is to remember that we were plucked from death through the grace of Christ.

To say "I know what you are looking for; I was once there looking for it too, and I found the answer, the remedy in Jesus."

Jesus says the two greatest commandments are to love God and love our neighbor. If we are not concerned with advancing the kingdom of God by sharing the gospel through our lives, then we don't love either.

The essence of mission is the compassionate heart of God.

Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross

Joy is embedded in Mission - lacking Joy - are you on mission?

Little kids - think in terms of world saving mission and joy = think about their future!

God calls you in His presence (greatness & glory) to send you out - Isa 6, Abraham - blessed to be a blessing - pull you in to sent out - get in - get out

The gathered and the scattered church become two inputs for conversion - evangelism - salvation

Joy Joy - mark of maturity when we get to the place where people meet Jesus in our community groups.

John 17 - As the father sent me I send you - Go into the world like Jesus - Luke 24:19
Testimony - road to Emmaus - Jesus was mighty in word and deed.

Until we have disciples making disciples, we are still drinking milk.

[Hbr 5:14](#) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, [that is], those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

When we get to the place where our communities are making disciples and teaching them the Word of God, then we are accomplishing the Great Commission.

"I'm not ready/able" Acts 1:8 (ESV) 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.

John 20:21–23 - 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

[Jhn 14:26](#)

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

NUMBERS AND LEGACY

All said and done Two indicators of faithfulness to Jesus - how many people we reached with the gospel, and the depth the gospel penetrated into their lives.

Our desire and goal ought to be to build the largest and deepest churches we can. I want our legacy to be one of transformation and growth.

The most precious resource is you, the people of God, to be used for the greatest purpose - for the glory of God and the fame of Jesus.

Out of our identity in Christ, we worship; we “**proclaim the excellencies**” of Christ. Through Jesus we have been reconciled to God and to one another. Once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people through the mercy of the cross.

Therefore we ought to be a people who point to and worship Jesus consistently.

We are members of a new family, bound together in brotherly love through the gospel of Jesus and the power of the Spirit.

We are a people in awe of who Jesus is and what He has done and we worship Him accordingly.

It is only the Word of God that creates an enduring community life of faith, hope, and love.

This new family is God’s demonstration of the gospel. It is the beginning of, and pointer to, the new world that will be our inheritance.

Be on Mission and You will experience abundant and the tangible excitement of being used by God.