



[Identity Concept: Mission Statement, Purposes, and Priorities]

1. Theme

OneChurch
OneHeart
OneMission
OneGod.

2. Purposes

One Church. To proclaim the eternal riches of Christ (Ephesians 3.8)

One Heart. To reveal the eternal mystery of God (Ephesians 3.9)

One Mission. To display the eternal wisdom of God (Ephesians 3.10-11)

That we may, through the eternal purpose of God, manifest the eternal glory of the **One true God.** (Ephesians 3.11, 21)

3. Mission

A. **THE MISSION:** to glorify God in reproducing worshipers (Ephesians 3.21; John 17.4, 6, 8, 18) Through:

- 1) bringing people into a **relationship** with Christ,
- 2) then helping those same people **grow** into Christ-likeness,
- 3) and equipping them to **fulfill** Christ's mission in their own lives.

B. **THE GOAL:** to fulfill the **Great Commandment** and the **Great Commission** (Matthew 22.35- 40, 28.19-20) Through:

- 1) **BEING** what he made us to BE in **loving God** and **loving People**;
- 2) **DOING** what He made us to DO, in **reaching** and **investing** in **people** for Him

4. Eternal Purposes with Priorities/Values

A. **One Church.** To proclaim the eternal riches of Christ (Ephesians 3.8)

- 1) Because God is **LOVE**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **SACRIFICIAL LOVE** (*John 13.34-35, 1 John 4.16*)
- 2) Because God is **LIGHT**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **CHRISTLIKE HOLINESS** (*1 John 1.5*)

B. **One Heart.** To reveal the eternal mystery of God (Ephesians 3.9)

- 1) Because Christ is the **WORD**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **EXPOSITORY PREACHING** (*John 1.1*)
- 2) Because Christ is **GLORY**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **SPIRITED WORSHIP** (*John 1.14*)

C. **One Mission.** To display the eternal wisdom of God (Ephesians 3.10-11)

- 1) Because Christ is the **POWER OF GOD**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **GLOBAL MISSIONS** (*Romans 1.16; Matthew 28.19-20*)
- 2) Because Christ is the **IMAGE OF GOD**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP** (*Colossians 1.15; Matt 22.35-40*)
- 3) Because Christ is the **LIFE OF GOD**, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of **EXPONENTIAL REPRODUCTION** (*John 1.4, 15.4-5, Colossians 3.4*)

D. That we may, through the eternal purpose of God, manifest the eternal glory of the **One true God.** (Ephesians 3.11, 21)

5. Values with address to Mission and Goal (Purposes/Priorities)

Values: Our Spiritual identification, the purposes and priorities of the Church (Ephesians 3.8-11)

A. OneChurch. To proclaim the eternal riches of Christ (Ephesians 3.8)

- 1) **Mission:** Because God is LIGHT; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of CHRISTLIKE HOLINESS (1 John 1.5)

The moment we called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save us, the Spirit of God immediately placed us "in Christ" (1 Cor. 12:13). The Bible teaches us that because we are "in Him," we have been made positionally holy (Eph. 1:4; Col. 1:22). In other words, because we are "in Christ", God now sees us the way He sees His Son—absolutely, completely, and perfectly holy. What an incredible reality! But as true as that is, the New Testament also teaches that God intends for all who have been made *positionally* holy, to now become *practically* holy (2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2:19). God has called us to Christ-like holiness. 1 Peter 1:14-16 says that as His children, we are to "be holy as He is holy"! He is the standard, nothing less. No, our members are not perfect, but we unashamedly call people to live lives that mirror the holiness of our blessed Savior.

- 2) **Goal:** Because God is LOVE; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of SACRIFICIAL LOVE (John 13.34-35, 1 John 4.16).

Jesus told us in Mark 12:30-31, that love is really the bottom line with God. He said that our love is to be expressed in two specific directions: first, in **loving GOD**; and second, in **loving PEOPLE**. The kind of love that Jesus was talking about was not an indiscriminate, casual, or half-hearted love. Jesus said that our love for God should be "with ALL of our heart, and ALL of our soul, and ALL of our mind, and ALL of our strength"; and that our love for people should be equal to the love that we have for ourselves. In other words, Jesus wasn't calling us to possess a love that is natural—but a love that is supernatural! A love that can only be expressed because the supernatural love of our supernatural God has supernaturally loved us, and now supernaturally loves through us!

B. OneHeart. To reveal the eternal mystery of God (Ephesians 3.9)

- 1) **Mission:** Because Christ is the WORD of God; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of EXPOSITORY PREACHING (John 1.1).

It is impossible for Christ to be preeminent in His church apart from the word of God being preeminent when we gather in His name. (Psa. 138:1-2). God's plan for His word is that it is to be "preached"! (1Cor. 1:17-18; 2Tim. 4:2-4) We don't

simply preach from the word, or about the word, we "preach the word" (2Tim. 4:2). We say "expository" because the responsibility of the "preacher" is not to "impose" his ideas or interpretations onto the truth of the word of God, but simply "expose" the truth that is in the word of God.

- 2) Goal: Because Christ is GLORY; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of SPIRITED WORSHIP (John 1.14).

God's interest has never been an issue of simply taking a massive group of people to heaven when they die. God's interest has always been a matter of worship. Jesus told us in John 4:23 that our Father in heaven is seeking *worshippers!* *True* worshippers! Jesus defined true worshippers as those who worship Him "in spirit and in truth". We believe worship is actually "worthship". That it is declaring with our words and demonstrating by our actions that for which we consider the Lord worthy. Every time our church gathers in Christ's name, we seek to express true worship to our glorious Father in heaven. But, spirited worship isn't simply something we challenge people to do when we gather together for our weekend services. We challenge our people to understand that God is seeking our worship 24/7/365! We believe that all of life is a worship service!

C. OneMission. To display the eternal wisdom of God (Ephesians 3.10-11)

- 1) Mission(A): Because Christ is the POWER OF GOD, we are uncompromising in our pursuit of GLOBAL MISSIONS (Romans 1.16; Matthew 28.19-20)

In terms of the scope of our commission of spiritual reproduction, God is adamant about us not only viewing our responsibility locally, but globally (Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15)! God certainly knows that we cannot do *everything* in terms of fulfilling His commission, but He wants all of us to recognize both our great privilege and responsibility to do *something* (1 Thess. 2:4)! We believe that God has given to our church collectively, and to each member individually, a destiny to fulfill concerning global missions.

- 2) Mission(B): Because Christ is the IMAGE OF GOD; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP (Colossians 1.15; Matthew 22.35-40)

Prior to sin entering into the world, God's plan through Adam was physical reproduction. Through the intimacy of his relationship with his bride, they were commissioned to be "fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 1:28) with sons and daughters who would not only be *their* children, but *God's* children! Sin thwarted God's plan (Gen. 5:3). But God still has a plan. He now carries out His plan through Christ's church. The plan now, however, is through *spiritual reproduction*. The New Testament refers to Christ as the "second

Adam" (1Cor. 15:45-47) and refers to us as His bride (Rev.19:7; 21:2; 2 Cor. 11:2). Through the intimacy of our relationship with Him, we have been commissioned to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" with sons and daughters of God (John 15:16; Matt. 28:19-20; 2Tim. 2:2). That's what we mean by Biblical Discipleship: spiritual reproduction.

3) GOAL: Because Christ is the LIFE OF GOD; we are uncompromising in our pursuit of EXPONENTIAL REPRODUCTION (John 1.4, 15.4-5; Colossians 3.4)

The commission of spiritual reproduction we have received corporately as the body of Christ, and as individual members of that body, is always expressed biblically with not only a view toward addition, but *multiplication*. (Gen. 1:28; Acts 6:1) As the body of Christ, we are a living organism. We believe that means that we have been entrusted with both the ability and responsibility of reproduction. Our vision is not only to set in order a plan that includes the reproduction and multiplication of *disciples*, but of disciples who are engaged in reproducing other disciples. That is what we mean by exponential reproduction. In the fulfilling of that vision, we seek to follow the model of the first century church in Antioch (see Acts 13:1-3).

D. All of this, through the eternal purpose of God, to manifest the eternal glory of the One true God. (Ephesians 3.11, 21)

