

C. Mission Statement

What Is A Mission Statement?

A Mission Statement by definition is “a formal summary of the aims and values of a company, organization, or individual.” To put it more simply, it explains an organization’s purpose for existing, and it seeks to fulfill that purpose. As such, the Mission Statement serves as a frame of reference to evaluate whether or not a person or organization is staying on track with the reason they came into existence in the first place.

Since Calvary Spokane is a Bible-based Church, we seek to understand our mission based on what the Bible and Jesus taught as the primary mission of His Church. Our objective is not to build our kingdom, but His. (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:20)

How We See Our Mission

The Church’s mission, as defined by Jesus in the Four Gospels and Acts, has come to be known as The Great Commission. The following five passages are those from which the Great Commission is derived. They all represent Jesus’ final instructions to His followers after His Resurrection.

- **Mark 16:15-16:** Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- **Matthew 28:19-20:** Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
- **Luke 24:45-48:** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.
- **John 20:21:** Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
- **Acts 1:6-8:** So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Our Mission Statement

These three things, we believe, are what should define the life and mission of any individual or organization that claims to represent the person of God in Christ.

- **Love God**
Why? Unless what we are doing is an active expression of love for God, it can only be of one other source: Love for Self! As Jesus said, we can only serve one master. More importantly, we will love the one and hate the other. We are either intentionally serving God, or intentionally Self; there is no middle ground. If we get it wrong on this point, the whole will in time prove to be wrong.
- **Love His Word**
Second, if we love God, it will first reveal itself in a love for what God says within His Word, the Bible. Sadly, many understand this only as a gathering of facts and information about God and about His Word. Sometimes they become extremely knowledgeable about the words in the Bible, without the slightest understanding about the Word that became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth! Consequently, their words and their life are marked by commands and rules; do’s and don’ts. They can tell you what to do, but have trouble telling who they know. But when one loves God’s Word because it reveals who God really is and the amazing love He has for us, it converts static religion into a sacred romance. You begin to talk far more about Him than about what one is supposed to do.
- **Love One Another**
Third, as a consequence of being deeply loved, we become deep lovers of others. Not because we find others particularly lovely, but rather because God’s love is desperate to find a person and place to express itself. We find ourselves, as Paul put it, compelled to love. We serve, we sacrifice, we fellowship, we share, we find ourselves doing all those things that the Bible says become characteristic of people who know and therefore love God.

Our Method

How do we go about achieving our mission statement? We develop the following:

- **Fully Devoted Followers**
Too many Christians take pride in their knowledge of the Bible and the fact that they are part of a Bible-teaching church. What they seem to forget is Paul’s warning that knowledge puffs up, but love builds up (1 Corinthians 8:1). The true reason we need to study and know the Bible is so that we can see the nature of the Father, perfectly expressed through Jesus... so we study Jesus—with the desire to devote ourselves to God and to His will. Pray with us: “Lord, make me a FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER of Jesus—and make me more like Him!”

- **Fully Discipled Leaders**

Jesus put it best: The harvest is great, but the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37). There are too many people who need spiritual mentors to disciple them in the faith. Because too many people see discipleship as the job of the pastor or other church staff, few relationships between Christians involve mentoring or discipling; those that exist instead just focus on “fellowship.” Bible teachers and preachers are called to communicate what the Word says—but those truths can only be fully understood as they are shared one-on-one. Discipleship requires relationship between a mature believer and an immature believer. Pray with us: “Lord, raise up FULLY DISCIPLED mature leaders who are willing to disciple the younger.”

- **A Fully Missional Community**

Christianity was not designed to be lived in isolation; yet large congregations tend to isolate many people. We are individuals, but we are also parts and members of a spiritual community called the Church. The Church is repeatedly referred to as a family, a community, a brotherhood, etc.

But what is the purpose of the community. It is not intended to be simply a *holy huddle* where Christians can find their seven best friends and live happily ever after. Christians are called to be on a *mission* to reach the world. As we grow *in community* we are also called to reach out *into our community*. This is done best when we not only love others that we know, but together we reach out *together in love to others* we don't know. This is *community with a purpose* beyond ourselves. It is community designed to reach the greater community for Christ.

Are you part of a small home-based group of believers? It is within such a context that the most and best spiritual growth takes place. It is the place where the Bible's teachings make the most sense and have their greatest opportunity to be expressed in meaningful ways. Pray with us: “Lord, lead me to a small group of dedicated believers where I can grow in YOU, and be knit together with this COMMUNITY of YOURS.”