

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Mission of the Church: How We Work It Out

Speaker:

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Date:

October 1, 2023

Scriptures:

Various

"The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into churches, that they might worship the Lord and obey his commands now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father."

Greg Gilbert & Kevin DeYoung,
What is the Mission of the Church?

CROSSWAY
CHURCH

Theme: Work out how you can help to make disciples by thinking through a few layers of participation.

Introduction: The mission of the church is, essentially, to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Having looked at what the mission *is*, and what it is *not*, it is important now to consider how we are to participate in it. It is important that we understand what Scripture has to say about mission so that we honor the Lord in how we do it.

Here are 4 layers of our participation in mission:

1. Being a faithful church

Churches can be more, or less, faithful to our gospel mission. In Rev 2:1-15, Jesus praises the church at Ephesus for some things, but rebukes them for abandoning their first love. They needed to repent.

All throughout church history, some churches have failed by embracing unbiblical views of mission (e.g., seeker sensitive).

We must prize faithfulness to the Lord over other considerations, so that we keep the gospel central and are true to our mission.

2. Engaging a providential placement

We all have roles and relationships that God has assigned to us. They are our providential placement in life.

The Lord works through them to accomplish his kingdom purposes (cf. Gen 40:5-8; Acts 8:1-4). They should be our first priority in mission.

3. Supporting missionary efforts

The Lord also gives us opportunities to support mission efforts from time to time.

There is more need, and more opportunity, than any one person or church can fulfill. So we need to vet our options and be wise in what we support.

We should prioritize church planting as the paradigm of biblical mission.

4. Going ourselves

The Lord will also call us to go ourselves at points. It may be short or long-term; but we are here today because others brought the gospel here.

Most people are called to stay, and to build faithful local churches. But as we church plant, and support other works, some of us will need to go.

Questions:

1. What roles and responsibilities has the Lord given you?
2. How are you using those providential placements to make disciples?
3. What is one of your best experiences in discipling others?