

“LIFE IN THE CHURCH”

March 14, 2013

Introduction: VIDEO/song: “The Motions”

T/S: That song sets the stage for our message today...

Question: Do you know the difference between:

Going thru the motions...

vs.

Living on MISSION?

O.T.	Priests = Motions...	vs.	Prophets = Mission
N.T.	Pharisees = Motions...	vs.	Disciples = Mission

T/S: Before we carry this question into our day... Let's review:

Week 1: Disciple: **Miraculous, Christ-like, work-in-progress**

- A. Miracle
- B. Messiah
- C. Mission

Week 2: **Discipleship:**

The intentional & obedient endeavors of *miraculous, Christ-like, works-in-progress* (a.k.a. “disciples”), engaged in “*finding the lost & growing the found*” into family-members who are in-turn, **committed** to making disciples, who make disciples, who make disciples; by God's grace and for His glory.

“What you don't commit TO you will drift FROM.” - JDP

Week 3: **Heart of the Disciple-Maker**

- a. Matthew 22:37-40
- b. 1 Thessalonians 2:8
 - Love
 - Gospel
 - Koinonia
 - Love

“If its not love... it’s a lie.” - JDP

T/S: Okay... so, as Disciples... engaged in Disciple-Making... with the right heart...

We’re going to take 3 weeks to look at “the Church” and ask the question:

“Is the Church *“in-motion”* or *“on-mission”*?”

Today we will look at the **INTERNAL** Church

Next week we will look at the **LOCAL** Church

Third... we will look at the **GLOBAL** Church...

BIG IDEA: **Biblical Church is Committed Church!**

By God’s grace thru faith... a biblically healthy Christian/church lives “ON-Mission” vs. “In-Motion”

5 Missional Commitments:

1. Committing to BE the Church (ekklessia)
2. Committing to BE “community” (koinonia)
3. Committing to BE Core-Cure-Carriers (T in love)
4. Committing to BE a Catalyst (making disciples)
5. Committing to BE one’s Calling (obedience)

T/S: Let’s look at our primary text for this morning...

Listen for the “truth in love” laced throughout...

1 Timothy 1:3-7 = "As I urged you (Timothy) upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, 4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. 5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, 7 wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions."

"Teaching people to obey what Jesus commanded is a never-ending process that requires us to intertwine our lives with the Christians around us.

1. COMMITTING to BE Ekklesia:

"God cares about the way we love each other & the way we pursue His mission."

Even with the Bible's clear and undeniable directives, many professing followers of Christ try to live the Christian life apart from serious, personal commitment to a local church.

That's like saying you love me... but hate/ignore Kim

"God has united us together in local churches to keep one another from sinning & straying from Christ

"...iron sharpens iron..."

VIDEO: Multiply Movement: Authentic Church

1. Visible vs. Invisible Church...
2. Every follower a fisher
3. Loving obedience is the fruit of saving faith

Christian/church lives ***"ON-Mission vs In-Motion"***

NOTE: see Paul's commitment!

Paul goes FOR... not TO Jesus...

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

*...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24** Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. **27** I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. **28** Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.*

2. COMMITTING to BE KOINONIA

A new commandment I give you... love one another as I have loved you! - Jesus

This is how they will know that you are my disciples, by your love for one another. - Jesus

BEARING One Another's Burdens:

**Bearing one another's burdens
is neither easy
nor optional.**

We are commanded to come together to fulfill God's purposes for the church ***Hebrews 10:24-25 = And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, 25 not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.***

It's impossible to 'one-another' yourself." - F. Chan

Pastor's job is to equip the saints to do the ministry...
Ephesians 4:12

**"So the question becomes,
whom should you be ministering to and how."**

NOTE: this shows that every Christian should be BOTH ministering AND Discipling... In fact, Discipling happens best in the context of doing life together in various aspects of shared ministry!

Question:

Whose burdens have YOUR name on them?

3. COMMITTING to BE a Core-Cure-Carrier (Truth in Love)

GETTING Beneath the Surface:

- We need to invest our lives in other people's problems AND solutions (as opposed to just surface support - which really isn't much support at all)

SLIDE: C.A.L.M. Logo

- We tend to offer help with symptom-support vs Cure-to-the-Core... We need to get to the root if we have any hope of truly changing the fruit. (Cf. Mark 7:18-23)

***** ALL SIN comes out of the heart; therefore...**

"Whatever help we can offer people who are struggling with sin has to be aimed at transforming the heart - NOT behavior."

4. COMMITTING to BE a Catalyst (making disciples) **TRANSFORMED By the Gospel:**

it is impossible for us to change someone's heart... Hence, we share the Gospel!

Qt: Ezekiel 36:26-28 (solution!)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within

you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances. 28 Then you will live in the land that I gave your fathers; you will be My people, and I will be your God.

"This is a cataclysmic event. 'Getting saved' is not about praying a prayer & then continuing to live our lives as though nothing happened. No. When God enters our lives, we are changed from the inside out."

- (2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21)

Question: How should the truth of the gospel & the power of the Holy Spirit affect the way that we approach helping people change?

VIDEO: "DNA of an Apostolic Movement"

1. Jesus is Lord
2. Disciple Making
3. Missional living (outward & deepening)
4. Apostolic Ministries (5-fold)
5. Organic Systems (reproducible)
6. Communitas

KEY:

Every part can reproduce the whole!

Every Disciple is a “spark” / flame / fire

Every Disciple is a “seed” / tree / forest

5. COMMITTING to BE your CALLING EVERY Member Doing Their Part:

Ephesians 4:14-16: ...both mission & ministry are team sports

14 Then **we** will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we** will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the **whole body, joined and held together** by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**

"...if you are not active in your church you are hurting your brothers & sisters...."

"HELPING PEOPLE CHANGE...
IS WHAT DISCIPLESHIP IS ALL ABOUT."

VIDEO: "Real Church Growth"

Let's Pray.