

"Get Ready"

1 John 2:28

October 27, 2013

Intro: Friends... let me ask you a few probing questions this morning as we begin. You don't have to answer out loud BUT I do ask that you answer honestly in & from your heart.

Here we go... Ready?

1st Question: If you had to meet with Jesus in 20 minutes to explain your last 24 hours... how do you think it would go? Better yet, would you be more EXCITED about sharing the story of your hands, head, & heart... OR would you be apprehensive, wishing your could have picked a "better" 24 hour window from your past?

Question #2: Same scenario... but this time, you are going to give an account for your last 3-6 months. How you feeling about that conversation? Before you answer too quickly, let me remind you of a couple of things King Jesus said to all that would claim to be His:

- Unless you pick up your cross daily you cannot be "My" disciple.
- If you love Me, you will obey My commandments.
- Go make disciples... teaching them to obey EVERYTHING that I commanded...
- By your love for one another they will know you are Mine
- Okay... you get the idea...

So... how you feeling about going into that interview???

Last Question: Let's say that "interview" is actually going to be a FINAL, ETERNAL JUDGMENT that will reveal the destination of your soul for all time. With that said, understand this, the interview will encompass your entire life story and Judge's decision will be FINAL!

Let me ask you...

1. How you feeling heading into court?
2. WHY are you feeling that way???

T/S: I pray you never forget those questions... and never stop contemplating them, year after year, day by day... with every passing minute...

To that end... I have some good news... this morning.
I have some bad news this morning...
And I have some more good news to close with.

The Bible's answers to these questions will be revealed & responded to this morning... ALL in the context of ONE Scripture verse: 1 John 2:28... a key AND transitional verse in our study of 1 John.

T/S: Lips speak for the head... Lives speak for the heart. - JDP

***** Romans 1:16: I am NOT ashamed of the gospel!**

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. [g 17](#) This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life." [18](#) But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

1 John 2:28

“And now little children, abide in Him so that when He appears we may have confidence and NOT shrink (back) from Him in shame, at His coming.”

And now

TRANSITION

- in contrast to the previous... ie. "moving forward"

REVIEW: Exegetical flow...

- a. 1:1-2 = Known TRUTH! Jesus is the eternal Light
- b. 1:3-4 = LOVE... joyous “koinonia,” vertically & horizontally
- c. 1:5,7,9 = Proclaiming the “how to” of the good news
- d. 1:6,8,10 = Warnings declared to the sin-denying liars
- e. 2:1-2 = Don’t sin... Don’t worry & Don’t forget
- f. 2:3-6 = Beware the Liars
- g. 2:7-11 = Liars “talk” love... Lovers walk love!
- h. 2:12-14 = God’s truth here is for ALL Christians

i. 2:15-17 = If you love the world... you do not love Him

j. 2:18-27 = Watch out! ...for your old antichrist friends

18 *Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.*

19 *They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.....* **26** *These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.*

- this is a transitional verse. (linking)

- introduces change/contrast to past

little children

AFFECTION

- NOTE: “children” vs. “child” = Church is always “koinonia”

- teknia theos implied in tek-née-on

- (context) as opposed to “worldly antichrists”

SEE “Great John Paul WOLF” Graphic...

- pastoral tone of love

- little children are faithful to family...

* Headship of the family

* Home of the family

* Health of the family

abide (see word study via John)

...to “abide in Him” is to be, by definition, in koinonia

Consider continuum:

1 John 2:18 & 26 2:28(A) 1 Cor 3 2:28(B)
Matt. 7:21ff

“abide” in John’s Gospel: (40X)

3:36 = *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

God’s wrath abides on the disobedient...

5:38 = *“You do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent.”*

Unbelief prevents the Word from abiding in you...

6:56 = *“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.”*

***** Call for COMMUNION *****

Be HUMBLE, HOLY, & HELPFUL...

8:31 = So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue **G3306** in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

Abiding in the Word proves true discipleship...

***** 12:24** = Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains (abides) alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Selfish "pretenders" will end up abiding alone...

Selfless surrender (Gal. 2:20) abides & multiplies!

14:17 = that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

You'll KNOW Him because He abides IN you!

John 15... The Vine and the Branches

1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2**He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes **a** so that it will be even more fruitful. **3**You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4**Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6**If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown

into the fire and burned. **7**If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8**This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14**You are my friends if you do what I command.

15:16 = "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, **G3306** so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Abiding "fruit" is lasting fruit...

Abiding, lasting fruit is blessed fruit!

1 John (24X)

2:6 = The one who loves his brother abides **G3306** in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

Loving "koinonia" proves one is abiding in Him

2:14 = I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young

*men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides **G3306** in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

Those in whom the Word abides are strong and will overcome the evil one (Satan & his minions).

2:17 = *The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives **G3306** forever.*

Those who obey abide FOREVER!

2:19 = *They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained **G3306** with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.*

Abiding believers never quit on koinonia. - JDP

2:24 = *As for you, let that abide **G3306** in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides **G3306** in you, you also will abide **G3306** in the Son and in the Father.*

Those in whom the biblical gospel abides... the biblical God also abides.

2:27 = *As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides **G3306** in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true*

and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide **G3306** in Him.

The Holy Spirit abides in God's children... and He teaches His children

2:28 = Now, little children, abide **G3306** in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not **fn**shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

PLUS 13 more uses between here and end of 1st John...

(abide) in Him

APPLICATION

- imperative/command (in love)
- "abide" = "koinonia" in many facets
 - * Look at vertical facets...
 - * Look at horizontal facets..,
 - * Look at "ekklesia in koinonia" facets

so that

CONTEMPLATION

- literally a "cause & affect" term
- introduces the consequence of the command (just given)

When

DECLARATION

- expression of certainty
- contrast "when" with "if"
 - * Every other worldview has "if"
 - * Even some professing believers hold to a "false IF faith"
 - "if" proves fake
 - "if" outside of obedience:
 - *** Calls Jesus a liar
 - "if" within obedience:
 - *** Calls Jesus a liar

NOTE: both deny grace!

(when) He appears/returns

ACTUALIZATION

we may have

ANTICIPATION

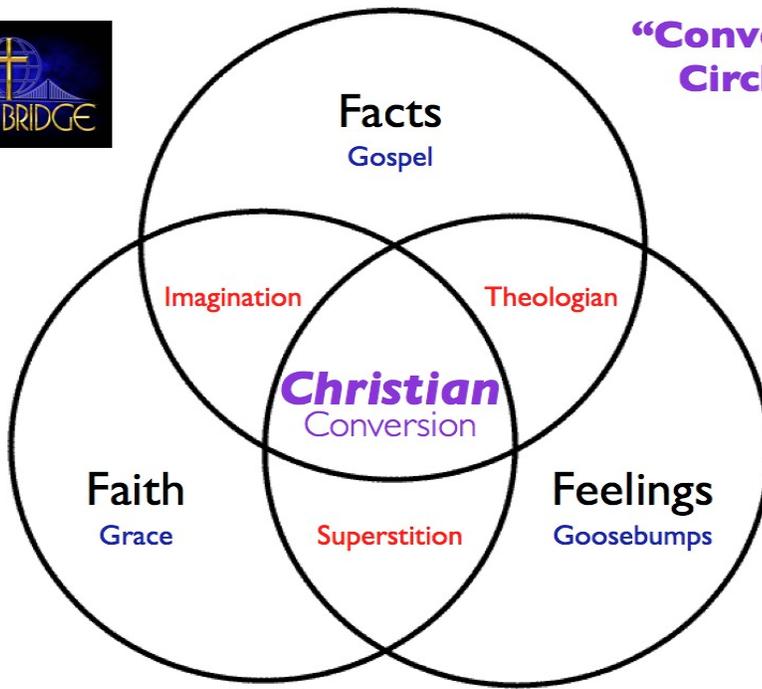
confidence

ASPIRATION

- Communion
- Redeemed... Remember... Rock-Solid!



“Conversion Circles”

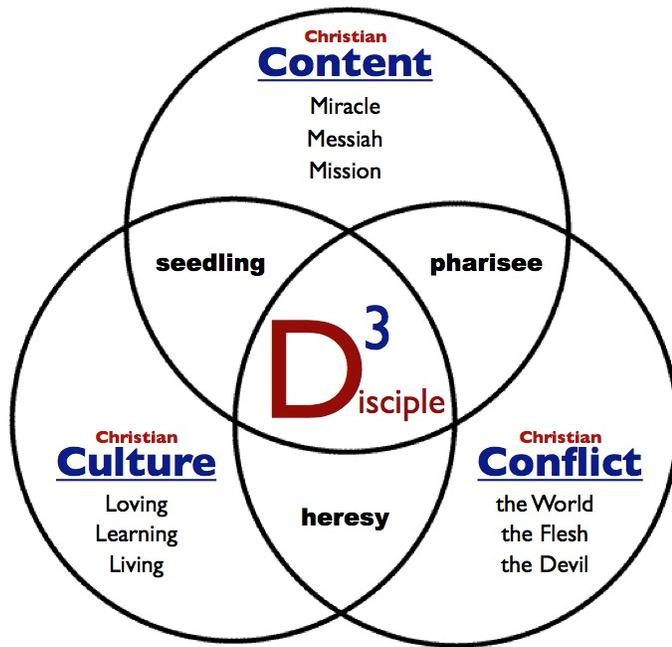


Mess
Spirit-DEAD

Messiah
Spirit-FED

Messenger
Spirit-LED

DISCIPLESHIP CONTEXTUALIZATION



Loveless

Love

Lovers

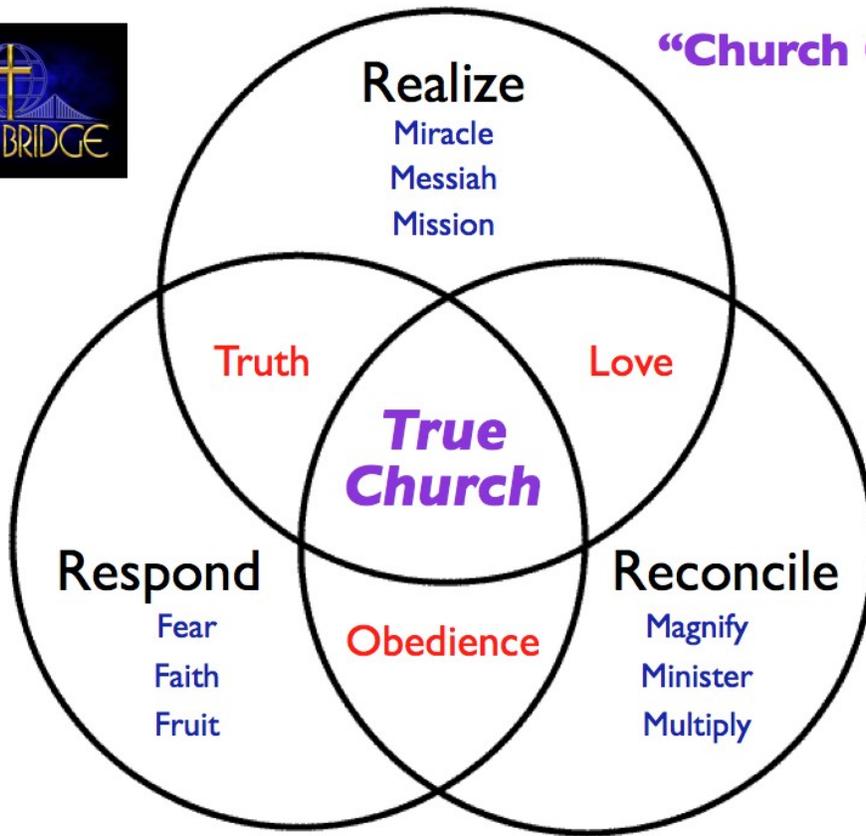
Were-not

Are

Will-always-BE



“Church Circles”



Found

Filled

Following

Make D's

Mature D's

Multiply D's

and not

DISTINCTION

- setting up the “OPPOSITE” of “confidence”
- ie. NOT in communion...
- ie. NOT truly redeemed...
- ie. NOT “walking” in “remembrance of Jesus”
- ie. NOT “Rock” solid fruit-bearer...

shrink (back)

HORRIFICATION

- i.e. “Wait till your Father gets home...”
- Hebrews 10:38-39
- Hebrews 11:1-2; 24-26; 35-38a = (*Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, a they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy...*)

from Him

PROPITIATION

- Jesus the Christ...
- Hebrews 12:1-3 = Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding

us, let us also (A)lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us (B)run with (C)endurance the race that is set before us, 2 [a]fixing our eyes on Jesus, the [b](D)author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him (E)endured the cross, (F)despising the shame, and has (G)sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For (H)consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary [c](I)and lose heart.

- 1 John 2:1-6 = *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 3And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

in shame

HORRIFICATION

- Same Greek word...
- Paul to the Ephesians...
- Acts 20:17-21 = *Paul sent to Ephesus for the*

elders of the church. [18](#)When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. [19](#)I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. [20](#)You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. [21](#)I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

My message as Lead Pastor of THE BRIDGE... is the same to you!

KNOW:

- Biblical “Equipping”
 - a. Biblical, anointed Preaching of God’s Word
 - ALL God’s Word: “the full council...”
 - “Full Context” preaching: No Matter What!
 - b. “Teaching” = “informing”
 - c. “Teaching + Applying = Equipping” - JDP
 - d. 2014 = “Gospel of John” (**SHOW GRAPHIC**)
 - e. “Knowing God” vs. knowing “about” God or gods
 - f. GOSPEL PROJECT (continues in year 2)
 - Adult
 - Children
 - ? Youth ?

- g. Exponential increase in availability of “truth”

➤ **RightNowMedia.com**

***** See “Live Demo”**

***** See “Live VIDEO”**

➤ Targeted, ministry-specific training(s)

*** Men, Women, Youth, Children...

*** Chaplaincy

--- Personal testimony

--- Simple Gospel

--- Visitation:

home/hospital

--- Prayer partnering

--- Grief support

*** Community “coaching” (i.e.

soccer)

*** Crossroads: “friendships”

GROW:

- Biblical “Engaging”

a. Personal spiritual disciplines

➤ Quiet time with the Lord

➤ Personal prayer life:

*** Worship

*** Praise/Gratitude

*** Discernment & Clarity

*** Intercessory

--- Family

- Fellowship
- Friends
- Faithful
- Faithless

b. LIFE Group participation

- Relational Loving
*** Life on Life relationships
- Relational Learning
*** Life on Life relationships
- Relational Living
*** Life on Life relationships

“ekklesia in koinonia” =

relationships!

- Vertical relationships
- Horizontal

relationships

- Deep, Selfless,

Sacrificial...

RELATIONSHIPS!

GO!

Locally

- Prayer
- Family: **Gk. "oikos" (oy-kos)** = household, circle of friends, sphere of influence. (Strongs Word #3624)
- HISbridge.com

*** 15% local activity

*** World-class Discipleship
Tool!

➤ Neighborhoods

*** HOPE Bible study/prayer

*** Coaching local soccer/T-ball

➤ City(s)

*** Living Thanksgiving

*** VBX

*** Crossroads

Regionally

➤ Prayer

➤ HISbridge.com (25%)

➤ Helping Up Mission

➤ Barre, VT

Globally

➤ Prayer

➤ HISbridge.com (60%)

➤ Lottie Moon Christmas offering

➤ Samaritan's Purse "Shoe
Boxes"

- House Churches in China
- Adopt an UUPG in 2014
- Build a library in Uganda!

T/S: Why is all this so important?
 Why won't I compromise?
 Why so intense???

at His coming.

VALIDATION

“confidence” = Gk. “par-ees-sia”

“coming” = Gk. “par-oos-sia”

See Matthew 24 & 25:

Matthew 24 = What it will look like at the end of days...

...the world will be going to hell in a hand basket...

...just like it is today!

Matthew 25 = (3) warnings in prep. for the end of days:

- Parable of the Ten (10) Bridesmaids
- Parable of the Talents (3 servants)
- Contextualized & confrontational shock!

- there will only be 2 groups that day:

* like Noah when the rain came...

Matthew 24:37-39 = *“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. **38**In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. **39**People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.*

You're either going to be found...

DEVOTED

or

DROWNING!

CLOSE:

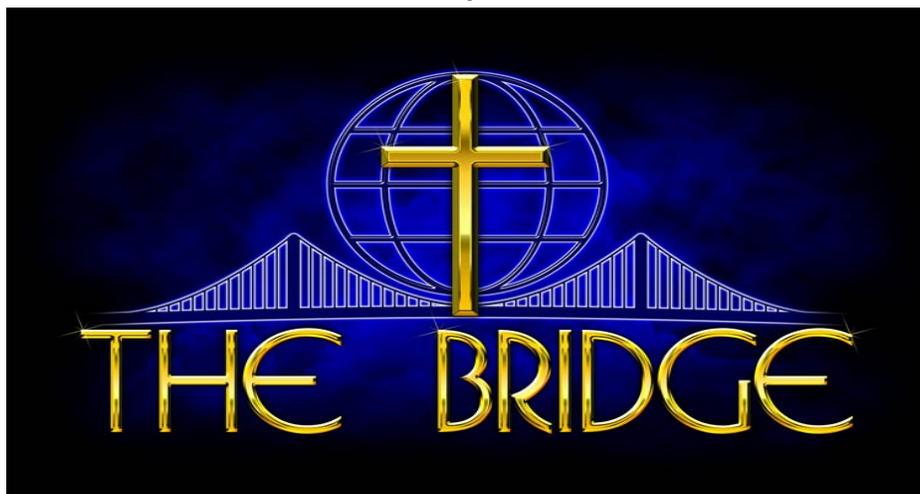
This verse, (and the entirety of the Bible) are supernaturally inspired, & infused with God's purposes & power...

For the express purpose of:

*Bringing God glory...
By getting you ready!*

God has specifically & supernaturally CALLED & COMMANDED me and our family (AND you & your family IF you are Christians) to help THIS supernaturally unified people known as THE BRIDGE to "get ready," while we collectively commit to helping others (locally, regionally, and globally) "get ready" to meet Jesus!"

Lips speak for the head... Lives speak for the heart. - JDP



On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. left an indelible heart-print on the window of human history. He did so by simultaneously casting and defending a vision that was founded upon divinely inspired freedom. Dr. King's eloquence and passion stirred the soul of a nation when he delivered his famous, "I Have A Dream" speech.

Today, we too have a divinely inspired vision that is rooted in faith and enveloped by biblical "**truth in love**" (Ephesians 4:14-16). Like Dr. King, we will share our vision in parallel expressions of optimism and high-calling. We will be a church that serves the world, from our neighbors to the nations, as a BRIDGE, intentionally connecting Christ's "real-deal" to everyday living. Therein, **we are committed to BE-ing an Acts 1:8 church:** "*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.*"

We Will "BE" His Witnesses

We will be a church within which everyone feels welcome.

- * Within which sinners sit beside saints & feel no condemnation, but rather Christ's love
- * Within which one's social standing, race, or other demographics simply do not matter

We will be a church that celebrates the presence of God.

- * Within which people not only feel His presence, but encounter Him in life-changing ways
- * Within which worship is not a Sunday morning "form," but an all-the-time lifestyle

We will be a church that is committed to prayer.

- * Not as part of an order of service or as some sort of religious "duty" but as a spiritual lifeline for daily living

- * Within which fervent, intercessory prayer is consistently lifted individually & corporately
- * Within which the week's highlight is often an intimate time of prayer

We will be a church that is Spirit led with biblical authority & refining truth (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

We will be a church that has the world at heart.

- * Within which committed lives "*on-mission*" will replace mere, *moralistic good deeds*.
- * Within which people are passionate about taking the gospel to all the world... so passionate that they feel compelled to get involved in the process personally - via heartfelt prayer, sacrificial giving, and hands-on participation... in local outreach efforts, as well as missions' trips across North America and around the world.

We will be a church in which people find true, biblical, Church-defining "community" including:

- * Friends that last a lifetime
- * Support and affirmation
 - * A family in which the unity of the Spirit is a primary priority *and* is zealously protected
 - * An atmosphere in which people out-do each other in being servants – not as some form of legalistic behavior, but because they are so deeply committed to living like Jesus

We will be a church in which children feel loved & safe; young believers are built up; & Christian adults are discipled to make disciples, who make disciples... all by God's grace & for His glory.

We will be a church that consistently reflects the love of God to our community...

- * As a saved people who are constantly on the lookout for opportunities to share their faith

- * Our aim will never be to “*get in someone’s face;*” but rather, to *touch someone’s heart*
- * As a people who intentionally search for ways to serve those outside of the faith, with practical demonstration of God’s love – and no strings attached!
- * Thru double-fisted seed-sowers becoming comfortable working behind the spiritual plow
- * As a people within which new believers are warmly welcomed into the family of God *and* intentionally nurtured (a.k.a. “discipled”) in their new life in-Christ... as His Church.

We will be a church that’s a little slice of heaven here on earth.

Miracle. Messiah. Mission.

We will be a church that honors and obeys the Word of God.

- * Within which biblical truth is presented in accurate, creative, and applicable ways
- * Whose people live with a healthy fear of God and treat faithful obedience biblically
- * A church whose doctrine reflects the Truth of God’s fully inspired and perfect Word
- * A people intentionally led through a process of spiritual growth that develops and deploys them as blessed slaves of the living God.
- * A church in which all who “*believe and receive,*” embrace their “right-where-you-are” missionary-calling
- * A church whose attitude is always, “*God said it. We believe it. That settles it.*”

It is our prayer that you will catch & commit to these commands & commissions of Christ.

“Find the Lost, Grow the Found”

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Together, in-Christ, we will BE-the-Church!

Friends... I don't just "get ready" --- BE ready!

Lips speak for the head... Lives speak for the heart. - JDP

Let's PRAY.

VIDEO: Selah... Let us be His heart, hands,
voice!