

## Church on Purpose Pt 1: The Purpose

Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 4:19, Matthew 16:18, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

### I. ME

#### A. Church on Purpose

1. 2000 years ago 12 men in Jerusalem were tasked with starting the Jesus Gathering (Church)
2. Since then the Church has spread throughout the world, outlasted Empires and rulers and survived centuries of persecution and reformations.
3. Over the last 2000 years, Billions of people have chosen to become Jesus followers
4. And the Church has literally changed the history of humankind.
5. HOW? Was it an accident? Was it some mystical heavenly force?
6. Or did normal people, through the power of God and the simple message of Jesus do it on purpose?
7. Can we play a part in this movement? And can we also do it on purpose?

#### B. Little League (Baseball or soccer)

1. What makes it so cute?
  - a. **Nobody knows why they're there or what they're doing.**
2. They don't really know the purpose of the game or their purpose for being on the team.
3. Nobody knows how to play their position or what their position is.
4. They strike out and try to run to third
5. Billy's in the outfield chasing bees
6. Soccer-make a goal in your own goal and celebrate
7. Sometimes they score a point but its usually on accident or b/c the coach's kid gets it and scores once in a while.
8. But everyone really just does their own thing, and makes up their own rules and has fun with their friends.
9. It's **chaotic** b/c no one really understands the purpose of a baseball team is to get runs or the purpose of a soccer team is to make goals.

10. Gets boring after a while- Why are we doing this and what are we exactly supposed to be doing?
11. They don't know or agree on their why and what. Their purpose.
12. But they keep coming b/c they get to see their friends and they get a snack and a juice box when it's over!

### 13. Why + What = Purpose

#### C. Kids make believe play... My kids Star Wars

1. Know the premise and make up stories
2. Often ends in arguments
3. B/c one makes up a plot/storyline the other doesn't want to follow
4. They disagree on the why and what...purpose/point of their game and their roles
5. And it creates... **conflict.**

### D. Not knowing or agreeing on your purpose creates conflict and chaos.

#### E. Construction-

1. When everyone agrees on the purpose (why they are there and what they do), amazing things can be built.
2. Why- To build a house
3. What do we do- Put pieces of wood together
4. Purpose- Home Builders
5. What if workers didn't agree on the why and what?  
Conflict and Chaos.
  - a. Why- To build a house, no a school, no a prison.
  - b. What- Lay bricks, Saw wood, Dig a hole

#### F. Seems funny, but when you think about it, even adults approach a lot of life like little league players than home builders.

## G. Marriage

1. Don't agree on the purpose of marriage there will be conflict and chaos
2. Examples

## H. Knowing and agreeing on your purpose creates clarity, harmony, and strength.

### I. Soldiers-

1. WHY are we here- Our country has enemies
2. WHAT do we do- Shoot weapons
3. PURPOSE- Shoot our enemies

### J. Search and Rescue Team

1. WHY are we here- There was a disaster
2. WHAT do we do- Rescue people
3. PURPOSE- Rescue people after a disaster

## II. WE

- A. The church is the search and rescue team for the world-  
**Matthew 9:35-38**
- B. How do we often approach church? As an organized team or Little League Kids?
  1. Clarity of the why and what?
  2. Do we work together toward an agreed upon goal and know our roles and carry them out with passion?
  3. Or do we just kinda show up, do what's fun for us, and wait around until we get our snack, juice box, and participation trophy?
- C. What tends to characterize the local church... clarity, harmony, and strength or conflict and chaos?

## D. Why?

1. B/c often we don't agree upon the Why and What, the **PURPOSE** of The Church, and it creates conflict and chaos.
2. Many of the complaints people have about The Church come from people disagreeing about or not understanding its purpose.

## E. Is that what Jesus said his Gathering would be like?

### 1. **Matthew 16:18**

2. Jesus predicted a powerful Church.
3. A church characterized by clarity, harmony, and strength not conflict and chaos.

## F. So what is the purpose of the Church?

1. How can we avoid becoming chaotic and having constant conflict.
2. Is there something we can agree on?

## G. Christians

3. WE need to evaluate our purpose for ourselves personally
4. **WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY ARE YOU PART OF CCC?**

## H. Non-Christians

1. What is this church thing about?
2. Is it really just a group of people wanting to be against other groups of people?
3. Why is there a difference from what I think church should be and what I've experienced it to be?

## I. Paul.

1. Background
2. Paul knew what the purpose of The Church. The why and what.

## J. 2 Cor Background

1. 55/56 AD
2. Roman Province of Corinth
3. Church started by Paul
4. Had some issues. Not knowing their identity (allegiances/divisions) and their purpose.

### III. GOD

- A. Very theologically deep and rich passage. Won't answer every question.
- B. **THE WHY-** Paul why do you do what you do?
- C. **V. 14-** I'm compelled by the love of Jesus
  - 1. **Compelled:** Held in. Like Rollercoaster on tracks. We have to!
    - a. Why? What's so compelling about the LOVE of Jesus.
  - 2. God did something! I'm Convinced (sifted through/thoroughly evaluated the evidence)
    - a. His love is so great that he did something about the pain, and hurt, and death that comes as a result of our separation from God.
    - b. God has provided a way to save the world.
    - c. What did he do?
  - 3. Jesus died for all- In our place
  - 4. And therefore all died- to having to be in slavery to sinful nature
  - 5. Jesus paid our debt so we can be debt free. Jesus paid therefore we can have our debts paid.
  - 6. Mailed you the visa gift card... just have to use it.
- D. **V. 15-** As a result of his love and death...
  - 1. That those who live- Been given eternal life
  - 2. No longer live for themselves- sinful nature
  - 3. But live for Him.
  - 4. I don't **HAVE TO** live for myself anymore.
    - a. What good has come from constantly giving into selfishness?
    - b. Focusing only for yourself?
    - c. Look out for yourself long enough and you'll only have yourself to look at.
    - d. Empty, purposeless, depression, loneliness.

- 5. So part of our WHY is...
  - a. Christ died for me so that I don't have to be a slave to my selfishness... I can be free to live for something bigger, better, I can live for Christ!

### **b. The mark of a Christian is that they don't live for themselves but for Jesus.**

- 6. That's cool. **What a privilege!!!** ...What does it mean?
- E. **V. 16-** First... It means I have New Perspective
  - 1. I see people through Jesus' eyes.
  - 2. **Regard-** It means seeing people differently, judging differently
  - 3. No longer look at people the same way.
  - 4. Rich/poor, black/white, conservative/liberal, American/foreigner, annoying/enjoyable
  - 5. No longer see people as enemies.
  - 6. No more US v. THEM
  - 7. That's how Paul looked at Jesus and he was way off.
  - 8. People are now only in one of two categories... In Christ... not yet in Christ. Saved and Not Yet saved.
  - 9. **Shipwreck...** in the life boat or not in the life boat- doesn't matter how wealthy, nationality, how they voted, where they were born.
  - 10. See what is most important.
  - 11. So different from what we do naturally.
    - a. Why Mother Teresa was such a big deal.
      - 1) She saw people through Jesus' eyes and let Him love them through her.
    - b. Why Christians were the ones who adopted abandoned babies, started orphanages, hospitals, etc.
  - 12. How does all of this happen?

- F. **V. 17-18a** I've been transformed by God
1. The real WHY is that Jesus transforms us.
  2. When you are convinced that Jesus is God's answer to the sin problem... you are transformed from being enslaved to sin and selfishness to being enslaved by love and grace and mercy.
  3. You are radically, deeply, irreversibly changed into a new creation... a Child of God.
  4. The old selfishness doesn't have to define you. You can now be defined by the love of Christ.
  5. And it's not by trying really hard to be different... or being good enough... the transformation comes from God.
  6. That's the WHY.
  7. Paul does what he does b/c he is convinced that God provided a way for humankind to be saved and it has transformed not only the way he sees the world but has also literally transformed his innermost person.
  8. So WHAT is it that **you** do... if you are motivated by **your** WHY what does that cause **you** to do?

## G. THE WHAT

- H. **V. 18b-19**
- I. Gave us the ministry of reconciliation...
    1. God sent Jesus to reconcile, end the separation, make peace with, the people that he created and loves.
    2. And he has chosen those who have been reconciled... to tell others how they can be reconciled.
    3. The saved become the savers... how God works.
    4. Shipwreck/Lifeboat again.
    5. **Christians have been transformed to reconcile the world to our Heavenly Father.**
  - J. The Church's WHY is the transformation brought by our trust in Jesus
  - K. The Church's WHAT is bringing God's message of reconciliation

## L. So the Church's PURPOSE is to be...

- M. **V. 20** Ambassadors
1. Represents the interests of their nation in another country.
  2. Speaking for the king or country
  3. He doesn't do the reconciling... that's the king's job... but he announces it on the king's behalf.
  4. This is the PURPOSE of every Christian. (**The Church's purpose is to be God's Ambassadors to the world**)
    - a. To be God's Ambassador to the rest of the world.
    - b. To show what God's love is like
    - c. And to tell how people can have peace... be reconciled to God.
  5. We **ARE** Ambassadors.
    - a. Not "should be"
    - b. Not "try to be"
    - c. Not "if you want to be"
    - d. If you are a Christian that is your new identity.
    - e. If you are a follower of Jesus you have been given the job of heavenly ambassador. Matthew 4:19-20.

6. **Side Note-** Are ambassadors confrontational and warlike?  
Or are they used to make peace and create friendly relationships?
- Yes they are loyal to their country but they work to bring and maintain peace in the interest of their country and the other country.

- N. The Church's WHY is the transformation brought by our trust in Jesus.
- O. The Church's WHAT is to bring God's message of reconciliation to the World.
- P. So our purpose is to be God's Ambassadors

#### Q. Church-

- WHY are we here? Jesus transformed us
- WHAT do we do? Reconcile people to God
- PURPOSE- God's Ambassadors.

#### IV. YOU

- A. Are you reconciled?
- Gospel
- B. Have you accepted your purpose as the Church?
- Your purpose is not to keep ourselves safe from the evil world in our holy huddle
  - It's not to tell people how ungodly everything they like to do is
  - It's not to make a prosperous strong country that is better than the rest of the world
  - Your purpose is to be an Ambassador of our Heavenly Father who longs to have the people he loves reconciled to him.
- C. It's not something you HAVE to do... it's something you already are b/c God has transformed you.
- D. You ARE God's ambassador. Accept it and live it. And enjoy your new life.

#### E. When you embrace your purpose life becomes extraordinary.

#### V. WE

- A. *Jesus is the hope of the world and the local church is the vehicle of expressing that hope to the world. - Andy Stanley*
- B. We as Crosscreek (the people) are God's ambassadors to South Salem.
- C. We have been chosen for this specific time to tell the people in our circle of influence about God's message of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.

- D. *There is nothing like the local church when it's working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited. It comforts the grieving and heals the broken in the context of community. It builds bridges to seekers and offers truth to the confused. It provides resources for those in need and opens its arms to the forgotten, the downtrodden, the disillusioned. It breaks the chains of addictions, frees the oppressed, and offers belonging to the marginalized of this world. Whatever the capacity for human suffering, the church has greater capacity for healing and wholeness... the potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close.*
- **Bill Hybels (Courageous Leadership)**

- E. We are not alone we have the power of God behind us and IN US!!! ... next week.
- F. Bring your friends. They need to hear the message of the Good News- the power of Jesus to live life to the full.