Series: Why? (Why We Do What We Do)

June 23, 2019

Message 4

**For the Vision**

Proverbs 29:18; Habakkuk 2:2-3

**INTRO:** Series - Why? Why do we do what we do?

We believe we need to understand this so that we can be working in unity toward one vision without division.

The Lord spoke to me clearly in October of 2014 -

**“Whether or not you grow numerically, your job … is to prepare this church to be led by the Next Generation.”**

So - we are on a path to figuring that out!

* **Growing Young Conference - October 11-12, 2019**
* **Our Pastors in “Growing Young Cohort” with Fuller Seminary** 
  + **October 2019 - October 2020**
* **Pastor’s time of Renewal and Reflection -** 
  + (announce flip to Pastor Sharon in 2019 & Pastor Randy in 2020)

We told Lilly Endowment and Christian Theological Seminary about this vision and they gave us a tremendous grant for these efforts! I believe that was God confirming our vision.

Our answers so far -

**Why We Do What We Do**

* **To Build the Church**
* **For Those Who Don’t Know**
* **For the One**

**Big Idea: Why We Do What We Do?**

**For The Vision**

Proverbs 29:18 KJV - Where there is no vision, the people perish…

Proverbs 29:18 NLT - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild…

Proverbs 29:18 MSG - If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves…

Habakkuk 2:2-3 ESV - And the Lord answered me: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 MSG - …This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.

**> Basic Truth**

**- It is God’s Will for the Church to grow.**

Healthy things grow. Stagnation breeds death - so God doesn’t want His people to stagnate.

If we believe that heaven and hell are real - and that everyone will go to one of two places - and if we believe that trusting in Jesus is the only way for people to get to heaven -

John 14:6 - Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 - There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

Then we must do everything we can to reach everyone we can.

But we want to grow for the right reasons -

* not ego
* We want to see growth - and we do what we do to create the atmosphere for growth in this generation - because God so loved the world! He is love in every generation!
* **Our growth potential is different.**

As individuals - as corporate church families -

It is not healthy for us to compare ourselves with others, because God has raised up every person and every church to be unique in and of itself and to achieve its unique purpose and destiny - reaching different people.

God will not hold us accountable in a comparison with someone else - He will hold us accountable for what He has asked us to do.

* **We can do better.**

This is true for everyone and every organization.

Vince Lombardi - “Gentlemen, we will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence.”

We want to be the best we can at everything we do because we are not doing it for ourselves - we are doing everything for Jesus! Our entire lives must be an offering to Him!

Some people think all the results are completely up to God! No they are not! Not if we are lazy! Not if we are not giving our best for Him!

If we don’t do better, we criticize people who do!

One day the board of Chik-Fil-A were having a strong discussion about how they could grow - get more customers -

Founder -

“If we get better, our customers will demand that we get bigger.” - Truett Cathy

**> God’s Vision**

D.L. Moody - “Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that really doesn’t matter.”

We can’t just aim at anything. We have to aim at the right thing.

God’s vision consists of 4 things:

* Lost people saved.
* Saved people pastored.
* Pastored people trained.
* Trained people mobilized.

This is seen in several places -

Exodus 6:6-7 - Therefore, say to the Israelites: “I am the LORD, and I will ***bring you out*** from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will ***free you*** from being slaves to them, and I will ***redeem you*** with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will ***take you as my own people***, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

Isaiah 61:1-4 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim ***good news to the poor***. He has sent me to ***bind up the brokenhearted***, to proclaim ***freedom for the captives*** and release from darkness for the prisoners,to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to ***bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,*** the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ***They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.***

Mark 16:15-20 - He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe... Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

In all of these passages -

* People hear the message and accept Jesus
* People are made part of the family
* People become disciples - they are trained
* They are sent out to do the same

Colossians 1:28-29 - He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

* Jesus is proclaimed
* People are admonished (pastored)
* People are taught (discipled, trained in gifted ministry)
* Help them reach maturity - using their gifts to serve others.

Paul’s prayer and ours -

Ephesians 1:17-19 MSG - I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for you.

Paul wants people to:

**- Know God**

Matthew 7:21-23 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you.’”

Religion doesn’t help - a real relationship with God through Jesus Christ is what makes the difference!

Our first and highest calling is to introduce people to Jesus! Why? Because everyone is lost and will be lost without Jesus!

So what do we do? We need a system to help people come to Know God

**Sunday Services**

We don’t plan our Sunday services just for Christians. We don’t exist just for those who are already here. We exist for people who aren’t here yet!

We don’t have to do everything we know how to do on a Sunday morning! Save some of it for your group times together! Paul clearly warned us about how we use our gifts when unbelievers are present - to not use those gifts in such a disorderly way that people would run out saying “They are crazy!”

So - we want to come together in our largest gatherings where everyone in every stage of their spiritual journey can be blessed - especially those who haven’t even begun a spiritual journey yet!

**- Find Freedom**

We want to take people on a journey to get their hearts right. We all see life through the filter of our heart which is often wounded - full of disappointments - failures - bad relationships - often abuse - addiction - hurt - pain -

We want people to find freedom and we believe this happen best in relationships!

James 5:16 - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

We find healing in healthy relationships.

**Small Groups**

Everything can be done in small groups!

* Ministry happens in relationships - so we have Life Interest Groups
* Ministry happens through study - so we have Life Studies Groups
* Ministry happens together - so we have Life Ministries Groups -

Everything is done in groups! We never minister alone! We are more effective together!

**- Discover Purpose**

Paul said he wanted them to “see exactly what God is calling you to do!”

We must help people discover their gifts and calling, because that is where their hope is - that where they find their purpose in life!

The two greatest days in your life - the day you were born - and the day you discover why you were born!

We keep trying to solve problems - but joy is found in purpose!

Paul was hard pressed on every side, but not in despair - Why? Because his eyes were not fixed on what is seen, but on what is unseen. His purpose changed everything!

I can’t solve all your problems - but I can give you a purpose bigger than your problems! I want to help you find your gift! This church is not about me and my gifts - it’s about you and your gifts! That’s what makes us unique and different from every other church family in town - so we’re not gonna try to be like them - we’re gonna be like you!

Romans 12:6 - We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

How do we do this?

**Next Steps**

Over 4 Sundays we will take you through 4 steps -

* Connect
* Discover
* Influence
* Serve

Paul said he wanted to help people, “Grasp the glorious way of life God has for you.”

**- Make a Difference**

1 Peter 4:10 - God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you.

God doesn’t just call a person - He calls a people!

He has called us together - to serve together - Why do you have a unique purpose? Because you are part of God’s people - and you are part of God’s plan to bless the world!

How do we do this?

**Dream Teams**

Not just volunteers - but people living their dream - living God’s dream for them as they make a difference in other people’s lives through the gifts God has given them!

It doesn’t get any better than this! This is what it’s all about! This is why we do what we do!

When people are not just filling holes - but serving according to the gifts God has given - then everyone is in the right place - doing the right thing - experiencing fulfillment - part of a team!

Ministry is simply the things we do to take people on this journey. This is how we define success -

Success is when people are moving on the spiritual journey God has for them.

We move people from lost to saved by creating a service where they can experience God.

We move people from saved to pastored by asking them to commit to relationships and join a small group.

We move people from pastored to the discipled by helping them discover and develop their spiritual gifts.

We move people from discipled to mobilized by involving them in ministry with others.