

Message Notes

"The covenant of life together"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "I WILL build my church!"

Review of last two weeks:

1. What's the point of church?
Ephesians 3:10-11

Mission Dei
Christology
Ecclesiology
Missionsology

What makes up a healthy local church?

1. Scriptural Authority (1 Timothy 3:4-15)
2. Corporate Worship (1 Corinthians 11:17-22)
3. Covenanted Community (Acts 2:42-47)
4. Biblical Leadership (Titus 1:5, also see Acts 20:13-38, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)
5. Mission (John 20:21)
6. Baptism and Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:16-20, also see 1 Cor. 11:17-22)

This week - What is the Mission of the Church?

1. **A look at the First Church's Values**
(Acts 2:36-47)

- A. Word and Worship
- B. Did Life Together
- C. Filled with Natural Praise
- D. Outward Focused

2. **I need you! You need me!** (Hebrews 3:12-13)

The Problem

The Solution

3. **We are in this together** (Hebrews 10:19-25)
"SINCE"s

"LET US"s

4. **We have a mission in life** (1 Peter 2:9-12)

- A. Worshipers
- B. Living 'among' non-worshippers

Application - "Covenant Membership @ HCC"

Acts 2:36-47

³⁶Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." ⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. ⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Hebrews 3:12-13

¹²See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.



Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, positioned within a large, arched opening of a dilapidated stone building. The building's walls are made of weathered brick and stone, with several other arches visible on either side. The ground is a flat, paved surface. The overall scene is captured in a monochromatic, sepia-toned style, evoking a sense of history and decay. The woman's dress is long and flowing, with a full skirt and a long train. She holds a small bouquet of flowers in front of her. The background through the archway shows a glimpse of a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking
by making the church his bride?

A FOUR WEEK MESSAGE SERIES ON THE CHURCH

January 25th - February 15th, 2009

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*“He who does not have
the church as his
mother does not have
God as his Father.”*

~ Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)

What's the point of church?



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Ephesians 3:10-11

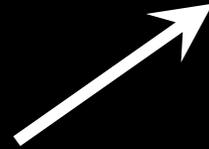
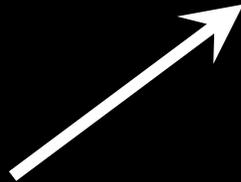
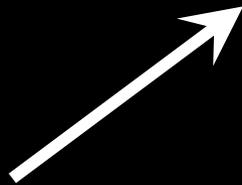
¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MISSIOLOGY
(Ministry)

ECCLESIOLOGY
(Church)

CHRISTOLOGY
(Gospel)

MISSIO DEI
(God's Mission)





What makes up a healthy local church?



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- 1. Scriptural Authority* (1 Tim. 3:14, 15)
- 2. Corporate Worship* (1 Cor. 11:17-22)
- 3. Covenanted Community* (Acts 2:42-47)
- 4. Biblical Leadership* (Titus 1:5)
- 5. Mission* (John 20:21)
- 6. Baptism / Lord's Supper* (Matt. 28:16-20)

*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*





**Martin Luther 1483-
1546**



**Ulrich Zwingli
1484-1531**



**John Calvin
1509-1564**

Rise of Three Americans



1933



1945



1951

*Is a Bible study or a group of believers
in a parachurch a Church?*

Universal – YES!!

Local – NO!!



What is the mission of the church?



**MISSION:
IMPOSSIBLE II**

The image shows the title 'MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE II' in a stylized, glowing, metallic font. The text is set against a dark background with horizontal light streaks, suggesting motion or a high-tech environment. The letters are three-dimensional and have a bright orange-gold glow.

What is the mission of the church?

1. A look at the values of the first church

Acts 2:36-47

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³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

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A. They were devoted to word and worship

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B. They did life with one another

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C. They were filled with natural praise

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D. They were outward focused

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2. I need you! You need me!

Hebrews 3:12-13

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What is the mission of the church?

2. I need you! You need me!

A. THE PROBLEM

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B. THE SOLUTION

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What is the mission of the church?

3. We are in this together

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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What is the mission of the church?

4. We have a mission in life

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

What is the mission of the church?

4. We have a mission in life

A. We are people belonging to God SO THAT we can worship

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Worship is the goal...and fuel

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the Church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. “The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!” (Psalm 97:1).”

~ John Piper, *Let the Nations be Glad*, p. 17



What is the mission of the church?

4. We have a mission in life

B. Living “among” the people so they can become worshippers!

1 Peter 2:9-12

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Living “among” the culture

“Being a missionary is never easy, but when the culture change has taken place in one’s own home, it’s even more difficult. We are much like Anglos living near Eighth Street (Calle Ocho) in 1959, during the era when locals were overwhelmed by new immigrants. Anglo churches in south Miami had two choices—think like Cubans and understand how to function in their world or move. Most chose to move rather than engage the new culture.

The church does not have such an option. Our job is to reach the lost world and bring greater glory to God. Yet, rather than engaging the new cultural change, the most prevalent Christian response is to pretend that there’s been no shift. The church continues to function as it always has – protecting its youth in summer camps, keeping its members listening to Christian music, and, as a whole, staying away from change.

This is the easiest approach, but it’s not the way of Christ...

~ Ed Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*, p. 133



Covenant Membership @ HCC

My Commitment:

Live as a worshipper of Jesus

Live in Community with one another

Live in such a way to be “among” people who
are not yet worshippers

Identify yourself as a covenant member by
becoming a member of HCC