

BELIEVING GOD FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE IN A DARK WORLD

Establishing a Foundation For a Healthy Future

Build our church on _____.

Matthew 16:18 (NIV) Jesus said, "...I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not overcome it!"

Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

1 Corinthians 3:10-14 "By the grace of God, I laid a foundation as an expert builder...But each one should be careful how he builds...for his work will be shown for what it is. The fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward."

Why is it so important to have a clear picture of where we are going as a church?

1. It builds _____.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB) "Let there be real harmony so there won't be any splits in the church...Be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

2. It reduces _____.

Isaiah 26:3 (GN) "You Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm..."

James 1:8 (NEB) "The double-minded man can never keep a steady course."

Isaiah 49:4 "I've labored to no purpose. I've spent my strength in vain and for nothing."

3. It allows _____.

Philippians 3:13 (LB) (Paul) “I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.”

4. It attracts _____.

Ezra 10:4 (LB) “Tell us how to proceed in setting things straight, and we will fully cooperate.”

Philippians 1:5 (GN) “You have helped me in the work of the gospel...”

Proverbs 11:27 (GN) “If your goals are good, you will be respected.”

5. It assists _____.

2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.”

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:36-40 “LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:19-20 “GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES of all nations, BAPTIZING THEM in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING THEM TO DO everything I have commanded you.”

Five Instructions For The Church

1. "Love God with all your heart" - _____
2. "Love your neighbor as yourself"- _____
3. "Go...make disciples" - _____
4. "Baptizing them" - _____
5. "Teaching them to do" - _____

THE CHURCH EXISTS TO:

1. Celebrate God's _____ (Worship)
"Exalt our Master"

Psalm 34:3 (RSV) "O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together."

Psalm 122:1 (GN) "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the Lord's house.'"

2. Communicate God's _____ (Evangelism)
"Evangelize our Mission field"

Acts 20:24 (NCV) "The most important thing is that I complete my mission - the work the Lord gave me to do - to tell people the Good News about God's grace."

Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses..."

3. Incorporate God's _____ (Fellowship)
"Encourage our Members"

Ephesians 2:19 (LB) "You are a member of God's very own family and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

4. Educate God's _____ (Discipleship)
“Educate for Maturity”

Ephesians 4:12b-13 (LB) “...building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity...until all become full grown in the Lord.”

5. Demonstrate God's _____ (Ministry)
“Equip for Ministry”

Ephesians 4:12a “...to prepare God's people for the work of ministry.”

THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF COMMITMENT

- _____ - the Mission field
- _____ - those who attend occasionally
- _____ - those committed to Membership
- _____ - those committed to Maturity
- _____ - those active in Ministry

The Priorities of a Purpose-Driven Church

Priority #1: _____

Priority #2: _____

Priority #3: _____

Priority #4: _____

HOW TO BALANCE THE FIVE PURPOSES

