



OUR PURPOSE

Evangelizing - **Reaching**
Equipping - **Teaching**
Exalting - **Praising**
Encouraging - **Building**
Enjoying - **Loving**



Introduction

One Purpose - There is ONE overarching purpose for the church consisting of five elements. Each element is vitally and equally important. They all stand or fall together.

Our Purpose - This is OUR purpose which God has commissioned to us collectively. Each member of the body of Christ must work together in order to fulfill the purpose of the Church. The Spirit of God has given the members gifts in order to assist them in fulfilling one or more of the aspects of our purpose.

Functional and Measurable Goals - A Church must have functional and measurable goals for determining whether or not it is accomplishing its purpose. A routine self evaluation is helpful in achieving this task.

Evangelizing a Lost World – Reaching



Why - Scripture

The Church is commissioned to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

📖 “He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15-16)

📖 “Jesus spoke... ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...’ (Matthew 28:18)

Why - Salvation

A lost and condemned world needs to hear the gospel proclaimed so that they can believe and receive eternal life.

📖 “God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world...” (Acts 17:30-31)

📖 He who “believes in Him will not perish...” (John 3:16); Jesus gives eternal life to His sheep “and they will never perish” (10:28).

📖 All those who believe have their name written in the book of life, but “if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15).

Who and Where - All and Sundry (various)

The gospel is to be proclaimed to “all the world... all creation”; “all the nations”; “all people everywhere”; “to the Jew and the Greek”. Jesus gives the church the geographical parameters by which it is to seek the lost.

📖 "...you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea and Samaria**, and even to **the remotest part of the earth.**" (Acts 1:8)

Mission Jerusalem: Twin Lakes Community - Ft. Lauderdale - Broward County.

Program: Personal Evangelism Training - AWANA – 24/7 - Block Party – Website - El Shaddia Missionary Baptist Church (Haitian Fellowship)

Mission Judea and Samaria: Florida – America

Program: Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Anne Armstrong Easter Offering.

Mission World: "to the remotest parts"

Program: Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

What's Missing at Twin Lakes Baptist Church?

Program: Using Our Sunday Morning Gathering for Evangelism

When and Where - Spreading Out

The Church is to go and to seek out the lost of the world, in the world – that's Evangelism! When and where the church body gathers together it is NOT primarily for the purpose of evangelism! The Gathering is not for the world!

"The Church is for the Church" - When the church body gathers together its primary purpose is for the equipping of the saints - that's Discipleship!

Jesus Gathered with Sinners - Tax collectors and sinners came to Christ to listen to Him, that is, to be taught by Him. The Pharisees tell us that He had received them and was even eating with them, indicating these sinners had believed in Him and were now fellowshiping with Him (Luke 15:1). These were sinners made saints being instructed in His Word.

Question: TLBC does not have an Invitation or Altar Call, Why?

It Sends the Wrong Message - By having an invitation to receive Christ at the end of every service sends the wrong message about why the church is gathering together. It gives the impression that the goal [the whole point] of why it is gathering together is for the purpose of saving the lost, which it is NOT! The primary purpose of when the church gathers together is for the equipping of the saints.

Timing is Everything - It was and it is still not considered customary for unbelievers to be present when "the whole church assembles together" (I Corinthians 14:23). If the church is gathering for the whole purpose for building up the Saints, then it is an inappropriate time to ask unbelieving sinners, who may or may not be present, to come to Christ, especially if the Gospel [that Christ died for our sins and rose again] has not been proclaimed.

Our Goal - An invitation is absolutely appropriate and crucial if the church body is gathering together for sole the purpose of evangelism. Certainly we want sinners to come to Christ and be saved. We are command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). But there is a right time and place for this to happen without wasting a lot good people's time and energy. Our goal as well as the Apostle Paul's goal is to ultimately bring every believer to maturity in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29).

Baby Christians Forever – It is extremely tragic for a church to fail in its duty to evangelize. But it is equally tragic and comparable criminal for a church to fail in its responsibility to grow believers up in the faith. It is enormously sad that many churches have simply become just birthing stations – “just getting people saved”, but never bringing them to maturity.



“Go Feed Yourselves” – A pastor of a large prominent seeker-sensitive church discovered through a survey that its most dedicated members were contemplating dropping out of church all together. They apparently had become disillusioned and burnt out because of their lack of biblical instruction. Shocking, the pastor’s response was to tell them to, “Go feed yourselves”.

The Conditions for receiving eternal life and becoming a disciple need to be more clearly distinguished. The condition for receiving eternal life is “Faith Alone in Christ Alone.” Jesus says to unbelievers to come, look, hear, drink, or receive. The condition for becoming a disciple is to abide or remain in his Word:

📖 “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

Equipping the Saints for Ministry – Teaching



Since the beginning the church has gathered together for instruction in the Word:

📖 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching ...” (Acts 2:42a).



Paul went to Extraordinary Means to Bring Salvation to All Men:

📖 “To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; *to those under the law, I put myself under the law, to those not under the law, I came like them to win them.* To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:20-22).

Paul’s Ultimate Purpose was to Bring the Saved to Maturity:

📖 “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.” (Colossians 1:28-29)

Paul Followed the Example of Preachers of the Past:

📖 “In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge; and he pondered, searched out and arranged many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find delightful words and to write words of truth correctly.” (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10)

Paul Discipled His Converts

He did not just seek to save some and then move on, but stayed for some time and made disciples:

📖 “And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch.” (Acts 14:21)

A disciple is more than a just believer – he is a student or pupil – a follower or pursuer of Jesus and the Apostles Teaching. The church is a structure of living stones (1 Peter 2:5) built upon the foundation stones of the Apostles doctrine, Jesus being the chief corner (Ephesians 2:20).

A disciple is, “One who believes His doctrines, rests upon His sacrifice, imbibes His spirit, and imitates His example.” (Farrar)

The leaders of our churches today ought to remember and heed the last two commands Jesus gave to Peter, “Feed My Sheep” and “Follow Me”. That is our purpose – That’s Discipleship!

Unfortunately, many preachers today have lost confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture and the preached Word. They feel that something more than the very words of God itself are necessary in order to retain people’s attention in today culture. Entertainment - lots of contemporary music, videos, stories of personal experiences, and pop psychology is added for fun and amusement. It seems they have mistaken the Holy Spirit with the jolly spirit. These extras have become more than just a supplement, but a substitute for the preached Word. As a result Steven J. Lawson observes a vast “Famine in the Land”,



Catching the Wave - “A new way of ‘doing’ church is emerging. In this radical paradigm shift, exposition is being replace with entertainment, preaching with performances, doctrine with drama, and theology with theatrics. The pulpit, once the focal point of the church, is being overshadowed by a variety of church-growth techniques, everything from trendy worship styles to glitzy presentations and vaudeville-like pageantries. In seeking to capture the upper hand in church growth, a new wave of pastors in reinventing church and repacking the gospel into a product to be sold to consumers.”

Fool’s Gold – “Whatever reportedly works in one church is being franchised out to various ‘markets’ abroad. As when gold was discovered in California, so ministers are beating a path to the doorsteps of exploding churches and super-hyped conferences where the latest ‘strike’ has been reported. Unfortunately, the newly planned gold often turns out to be ‘fools’ gold. Not all that glitters is actually gold...”



Famine in the Land - “Throughout church history, preachers who have left a lasting impact on the church have known that, in the words of Michael Horton, ‘the regular proclamation of Christ through the close exposition of Scripture is more relevant in creating a worshipping and serving community than political causes, moral crusades, and entertaining services.’ In many evangelical churches, however the centrality of biblical exposition is being demoted to second-class status. In a strange twist, the preaching of the Cross is foolishness, not only to the world, but also to the contemporary church. The result has been a famine of biblical preaching in our land.”

REPENT! - “The famine in pulpits across the nation reveals a loss of confidence in God’s Word to perform its sacred work. While evangelicals affirm the inerrancy of Scripture, many have apparently abandoned their belief in it sufficiency to save and to sanctify. Rather than expounding the Word with growing vigor, many are turning to lesser strategies in an effort to resurrect dead ministries. But with each newly added novelty, the straightforward expounding of the Bible is being relegated to a secondary role, further starving the church. Doing God’s work God’s way requires an unwavering commitment to feeding people God’s Word through relentless biblical preaching and teaching.”¹



¹ Steven J. Lawson, Famine in the Land - A Passionate Call for Expository Preaching, Chicago: Moody Publishers; 2003. pgs. 25-27.

An unwavering commitment to feeding God's people God's Word through relentless biblical preaching and teaching is our purpose at TLBC! For we truly believe that:

📖 “**All Scripture is** inspired by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

A Good Servant of the Lord will Feed His sheep on the Word:

📖 “In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.” (1 Timothy 4:6).

A Good Shepherd will Protect His Flock from Harmful Doctrines, so they will:

📖 “no longer... be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;” (Ephesians 4:14-15).

To Reach the Lost and Not Teach the Found is a Failed Ministry - In order for the church to fulfill the “Great Commission” it must first **reach** the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for those who believe the church **must** then **teach** them to continue in His word so they may grow to maturity in Christ. If we only reach the lost, but do not mature the saint then we have failed in fulfilling our purpose.



Exalting the Lord in Worship – Praising



We need not to go far in Scripture to find admonitions to give praise, honor and glory to the Lord:

📖 “Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright.” (Psalm 33:1)
[See my message on Psalm 33]

📖 “Praise the Lord all you Gentiles. And let all the people praise Him.” (Psalm 117:1; Romans 15:11)

📖 “Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing... Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.” (Psalm 100:1-2, 4)

📖 “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God...” (Hebrews 13:15)

📖 “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” (Revelation 19:5)

📖 “Be filled with spirit (spiritual wisdom), speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:18-19)

📖 “Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16)

The Westminster Catechism states, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”

Praise and Worship - “The music ministry has taken over our worship services”²

In today’s contemporary church the primacy of preaching the Word has been replaced with the “PRAISE TEAM”. Enter into many churches and the pulpit has been moved to the side to make room for the drum set, the center piece of the stage. The beat has taken supremacy over the mind.



A Tool for Evangelism - “We are just trying to reach the unchurched”, says, John Lucarini, a once prominent leader in bringing “Contemporary Christian Music” into the church gathering. He now confesses that their argument for introducing CCM was really just a smokescreen, masqueraded as a tool for better evangelism:

“...It is time to expose the hypocrisy of those church leaders who justify CCM by claiming they use it for evangelistic purposes in their seeker services. Nonsense! The truth is, these churches use it in their services for the ‘saints’ as well... At the seeker-sensitive churches we attended, the music was ostensibly designed for the unchurched but that excuse was really just a smoke screen obscuring our real reason... The bottom line was that we simply wanted to use *our* music in the church... We have the same self-centered, self-indulgent spirit of the 1960s and 1970s but now it has been given a veneer of Christian dedication.”³

Are You Bored Yet? - One pastor’s argument for introducing changes into the way we do church was to guarantee that “Doing Church was going to be fun” and “You’re not going to be bored”. However, according to recent surveys **boredom in church is at an all time high** (despite all of the changes) and biblical illiteracy has reached a pandemic stage.

How’s that Change Working Out for You? – The change in the way “we do church” has not brought about an overall increase in the church. Yes, the number of large churches is increasing, but the number of churches is decreasing dramatically, [3000 churches a year are closing] and the number of people in churches across the US is stagnating.

Where to Draw the Line – The debate of what style of music is appropriate in the church is ongoing. Here are some guidelines that may help:

- ✓ The music style should originate with those who are filled with spiritual wisdom, that is, the Word of Christ richly dwells within.
- ✓ The music style should prepare the mind for the preached Word.
- ✓ The music style should promote corporate worship and create congregational unity. [I.e.: can you hear yourself singing much less the person next to you?]
- ✓ The music style should be for the building up of the church and not for outsiders.
- ✓ The music style should direct the thoughts of the church toward God and not for the purpose of heightening one’s personal worship experience.

It is right for the righteous to praise and honor God in song using the voice and/or with musical instruments. It is a vital part of the overall purpose of the church. The music should be used in unison with the proclamation of the Word, and promote corporate praise and worship of the Lord. I think that some CCM can be used when the church gathers together if it follows these guidelines.

² Dan Lucarini, “Why I Left the Contemporary Christian Movement” Evangelical Press, Webster, NY. 2002, p. 45.

³ Ibid. p. 62-63.

Encouraging One Another through Ministry – Building



Our purpose is to encourage and build up one another using the gifts that the Spirit has given to each one of us,

- 📖 “Therefore, encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Encourage – “parakaleite” – comfort; strengthen
Build up – “oikodomeo” edify; construct

- 📖 “Encourage one another day after day, (Hebrews 3:13)
- 📖 “He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

The gifts were given by the Spirit (paraklete/Strengthen) for the purpose of strengthening one another,

- 📖 “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**” (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- 📖 “...seek to abound for the edification **of the church.**” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

The gifts were given for one another, not for our own personal edification.

Enjoying One Another in Fellowship - Loving



Since the beginning of the church it has engaged in fellowship with one another:

- 📖 “They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42)

Fellowship - “koinonia”
Partnership; Participation; Partner; Sharer

Fellowship with One Another is with the Brethren

Our love and devotion for one another is to be first directed toward the family of God, then toward outsiders.

- 📖 “...and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people...” (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
- 📖 “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (1 John 3:11 – John 13:34-35)
- 📖 “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;” (Romans 12:10)
- 📖 “Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9)

This is the commandment given by Christ at the beginning of the New Covenant era:

📖 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Fellowship with One Another has Conditions

There is one condition for receiving eternal life and that is faith in Christ. But in order to have ongoing fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit the believer must remain in His Word, the Apostle’s doctrine and love his brother in Christ:

📖 “if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another,” (1 John 1:7)

📖 “This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.” (1 John 3:23-24)

Only those believers who are walking in the Light, and keeping His commandment to love one another can have fellowship with God and with other believers. If someone says “I loves God” but fails to love his brother in Christ, he makes himself out to be a liar (1 John 4:20)

📖 “And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should **love his brother also.**” (1 John 4:21).

📖 “For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;”(1 John 3:11 – John 13:34)



The phrase, “one another” is used 107 times in the New Testament. Here is a sampling:

- “be at peace with one another”
- “greet one another”
- “confess your sins and pray to one another”
- “be hospitable to one another”
- “be kind to one another”
- “be subject to one another”
- “encourage and build up one another”
- “teach and admonish one another”
- “serve one another”
- “wait for one another”
- “care for one another”
- “forgive one another”
- “don’t bite and devour one another
- “don’t bring lawsuit against one another”
- “don’t be boastful, challenging and envying one another”

If we are “love one another” then we can enjoy one another’s company.

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