

**Christ Community Covenant Church
The Five Stones
Pastor Dave Scherrer - June 3, 2012**

Re-introduce the series: Looking Forward

Last week we looked at a fresh way of understanding our life in Christ is our mission . . .

Our Mission: Love God, Love Others and Advance the Kingdom Together

Let's try that together again: (Together out loud)

We noted a week ago that we are spending the summer looking at our 4Cs Story – a series dedicated to prayerfully looking at God's priorities and passions in our world. Now when we do that, it automatically makes us prayerfully look to see what role we can play to satisfy these passions. It is critical that we know the mind and heart of God and what is important to Him. Then we simply follow what we find.

What we believe about God changes everything about us! If we believe His passion is for the lost then of course, we will be about participating in seeking and saving the lost. And on it goes. But how do we know how to move forward?

Thankfully God has given us a clear answer as to what his mission is. This phrase that we have been repeating is a phrase taken from teaching sometimes referred to as "The Great Commission" and "The Great Commandment" as taught by Jesus. He stated the mission of God. The heart and passion – the Mission of God is to advance the Kingdom of God and spread the rule and reign of Jesus Christ. The words – "Love God, Love Others and Advance the Kingdom Together" are a summary of these teachings:

Mark 12:28-32 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

To do these great good things, God has established "the Church" – the gathering of those who have given themselves over to Jesus and have His Holy Spirit abiding in them. All these - past present and future – are "The Church." God has a mission and the church is the instrument of satisfying that mission. And our weapons are not of this world, but our weapons are instead made of LOVE!

I want to turn our attention now from our Mission Statement to the values that help us to manifest these great endeavors. Let's talk about the nature of values for a minute.

The Nature of Values

To have a clear concept of what our values are is really important, for a church and for every believer too. I think it is important to discuss values in pre-marital counseling. I think that this discussion is at the heart of helping to nurture a good marriage.

Values Drive Us – Our values influence where we spend our time and our money and our energy. They impact who we spend time with and in some ways having our values satisfied makes us satisfied.

What are some things you value? Some things you think are really important, that impact your life for the good? [group discussion; exercise, good food, a healthy family, lots of money, etc.]

Are there some good values and some bad values? What are some good values? How about bad? [group discussion]

Values Define Us or least they should. If I say I value honesty and integrity one could expect that I would be a very good employee. I would work hard and I would be a person of my word. But it isn't as easy as you might think to get a clear picture of the things we value. Sometimes we fool ourselves – but there is a test we can use to see if our self-perceived values are our real values: It is called the “Wallet Test”

The Wallet Test

The “Wallet Test” or sometimes called “The Calendar Test.” How you spend your money and time is the only true test of your values.

1 Samuel 17:38-40, 48-49 Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armor. David girded his sword over his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. So David said to Saul, “I cannot go with these, for I have not tested *them*.” And David took them off. He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in *his* pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.

Then it happened when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand into his bag and took from it a stone and slung *it*, and struck the Philistine on his forehead. And the stone sank into his forehead, so that he fell on his face to the ground.

Our Five Stones

Our Five Stones are the weapons, are the instruments by which we will seek to manifest our mission to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves and to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them all that Christ has taught us.

A Family Church

Supporting and encouraging families, marriages and singles and finding intimacy and belonging in a believing community. This means prioritizing a love for “Family” as God designed it: monogamous, heterosexual, separated, and committed. And there is more; it also means having a love for those who are single and single again. For the orphaned and the widowed, the unclaimed and the unborn. These are all our family too.

Then there is the family of God. The Family of believers. We are committed to building a place of worship that is embracing and accepting of all who come here to seek and find God.

A Multiplying Church

Building relationships with the spiritually undecided that results in a loving, persuasive proclamation of the Gospel in word and deed, in Spirit and truth. This means that the saints equip the saints to tell our story of how Christ has come to give us life and love. It is about the transformed life and finding ways to reach our community for Christ.

A Community Minded Church

Finding your place of Kingdom service and making a difference in our neighborhood and community. This value speaks to our conviction that each of us is spiritually gifted by God to encourage the other members of the Church. And we also believe that through ministries of justice and compassion and mercy we can participate in the priorities of loving the downtrodden and broken and marginalized of this world.

A Teaching Church

Encouraging believers into a deep, lifelong love relationship with Jesus Christ. We do this as the Great Commission demands, "Teaching all that Christ has commanded us to do, making disciples; encouraging life-long learning and a life-long apprenticeship following Christ.

A Celebrating Church

Offering transformational encounters with the One True God and instilling a heart of worship and prayer into our church family that is both personal and corporate. Worship is so much more than music. We can worship in service and in prayer. We can worship in giving and in evangelism. We worship by obeying and by listening. We worship in groups and we also worship in private through studying in and meditating on God's word. Moment by moment we desire to be known as a church that celebrates! That walks in joy and love and peace and patience and kindness, gentleness and self-control. This all is a church that celebrates life and life abundant!

The Foundation of Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Table of Christ

Benediction

Colossians 2:6-7 My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You are well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.