

What is the Difference between Purpose/Mission & Vision

- Purpose/Mission - What are we here for?
- Vision - How do we accomplish our mission?

Example: Personal lives: Purpose - "To glorify God"; Vision - Goals

Church

As a church our mission should reflect what Christ gave us in **Matthew 28:19-20** (The Great Commission)

19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

I have taken this and tried to work it into a simple easy to understand mission for our Church.

***Grace Church exists to turn...
Non Christians into Converts,
Converts into Disciples,
Disciples into Mature Fruitful Leaders
who reach others for Christ!***

So how do we accomplish our mission?

4 Words

LOVE... GROW... SERVE... REACH

These 4 words are all action verbs. They are what we will become know for. What we strive to do. What we will use to evaluate how we are accomplishing the mission.

How are we 4 Words? That might be too easy.

How am I ...

Today I want us to look at the first of these. **LOVE**

God made us to be in a love relationship with him, and he has provided a way to know him through faith and trust in his Son, Jesus.

Loving God means that we surrender our lives to Jesus and allow his Spirit to fill and guide us each day. it means regularly talking with him through prayer and listening to his voice by reading his word. it means we worship him not only on Sunday but throughout each day of the week. In loving God we allow his presence to shine through our lives.

From the youngest to the oldest, the message of loving God and being loved by him is a part of all we do. it is the first step in the journey God longs for us to take.

But it is not enough for us to just experience God's love for us, We need to share the love of God with others.

I have seen and even been in churches that forgot this simple word. **LOVE**. These are not bad churches, they are not evil, They have just lost focus. After a while this grows cold.

Ephesians 1:15 - Ephesus was know for their love.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints.

Revelation 2:4 - *But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!*

As we look at love this week I what to employ a simple but powerful tool for us to unpack this subject. Reporters Questions... Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How

Who should we love?

God

Matthew 22:37 *Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.*

Others

Matthew 22:38 *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

One another

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this **all people will know that you are my disciples**, if you have love for one another."*

Enemies

Matthew 5:43-47

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

Everyone

Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What is it

John 15:13

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 3:16-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Invitation:

Now before we go any further I want to take a moment and invite you if you have never accepted the gift of salvation I want to give you an opportunity.

John 3:16-17

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

1 John 4:7-10 (MSG)

My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love. This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God.

When do we love

Proverbs 17:17

"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Where does it come from

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

Galatians 5:22

The Fruit of the Spirit is LOVE..

Why should we love

1 Peter 4:8

*Above all, love each other deeply, **because love covers over a multitude of sins.***

1 John 4:18-19

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **We love because he first loved us.***

Colossians 3:14

*And over all these virtues put on **love, which binds them all together in perfect unity***

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

*Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. **13:1** If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, **I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.** **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, **I am nothing.** **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, **I gain nothing.***

How do we love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

Galatians 5:13

Through love serve one another

John 14:15

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Communion:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

So How About You?

Connection Card:

I will commit to help Grace become known for its Love!

I will show God's unconditional love to someone this week.

I will love someone by inviting them to church this week.