

Directives and Distinctives Where We Are Going and How We Will Get There

Thesis: This morning, I want to remind us of the directives (callings) on our life as a congregation. And, I want to talk the distinctives of our church. We will talk about what makes us who we are. We will consider where we are going and how we will get there.

Text: Philippians 3:12-16 (PassionNTPsa)

Our God is an amazing creator. Every snowflake is unique. Every tree is unique. Every person is unique. And every church is unique.

What holds everything together and gives everything meaning is our living Creator God.

1. We have *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:6)*.
 - a. Overall: transcendent; sovereign
 - b. Through all: coming through it all; daily moments; active
 - c. In all: incarnate; immanent; present
2. *For in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)*.
3. *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse (Romans 1:20)*.
 - a. Creation is telling us about God.
 - b. God is here. But we don't have eyes to see it. Sometimes, we see it, but don't have wills to surrender.
 - c. God is here; he is available; he has desire for relationship with us.

Our God is at work in your life, in my life, and in this world. He is taking us somewhere. He has plans, purposes, promises, and prophetic words that he will fulfill over our lives, our church, our nation, and the universe.

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Directives: where we are going

1. **Our vision:**
 - a. To establish people in **INTIMACY** with God — My Story (awareness)
 - b. To express true Christian **COMMUNITY** — Our Story (authenticity)
 - c. To extend the **KINGDOM** of God in the Earth — The Story (action)
2. **Intimacy:** a reflective life that leads to intimate relationship with God, conformity to Christ, and co-creating with God.
 - a. How can I do what Jesus would do unless I practice like he did? Not by trying but by training and practice.
 - b. John 15:5, 17:3; Ephesians 1:17; Romans 8:28-29; Matthew 6:10
3. **Community:** an authentic community where we are open and honest, and we have a shared life and a shared vision with others.
 - a. 1 John 1:7; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 12:12fl.
4. **Kingdom:** radically obeying the Lord; living missionally with others (joining Jesus on his mission with others).
 - a. The finish line: Matthew 24:12-14.
 - b. The context: Isaiah 60:1-3.
 - c. The community on mission: Luke 9:1-2, 10:1-2; Acts 1:8
5. **Where we are going:**
 - a. To an intimate relationship with God (John 17:3) that results in conformity to the nature of Christ (Romans 8:28-29) and in co-creating with God (Matthew 6:10; Revelation 5:9-10).
 - b. To an authentic community (church) that experiences the unity (community) of the faith, intimate knowledge (intimacy) of the Son of God, and the full measure of the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).
 - c. To living missionally with others which involves ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus as a kingdom and priests to put the world back together as God intended (Revelation 5:9-10).
 - d. **Our vision has captured my heart and life. I love our vision of intimacy, community, and kingdom.**
 - i. I believe that our vision is actually a mental model of transformation. The Lord uses all three parts of our vision as a way to transform our lives.
 - ii. Over the last 10 years, I have been learning and practicing skills and concepts that take our vision to new levels of intentionality.

Distinctives: how we will get there

1. **Proclaiming and demonstrating the gospel of the kingdom of God.**
 - a. *And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people (Matthew 4:23).*
 - b. *This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).*
 - c. The gospel of Jesus, the gospel of the apostles, and the gospel of the early church was the gospel of the kingdom of God. It is about showing and telling what it is like when God rules and reigns.
 - d. If you are going to represent Jesus in the earth and make disciples of all nations, then you have to align yourself with what Jesus taught and did. The focus of Christ's message was the gospel of the kingdom of God. If you believe in or preach a different gospel, then you will get different results. But the fruit will not be the evidences of the kingdom of God.
2. **Developing core competencies of awareness, authenticity, and action.**
 - a. **Awareness** (intimacy; reflective life) (Genesis 28:16)
 - b. **Authenticity** (community) (1 John 1:7)
 - c. **Action** (kingdom; radical obedience) (Matthew 16:24-25; Revelation 5:9-10)
 - d. How will we get to where God is leading? By growing in awareness, authentic, and action.
3. **Learning and practicing skills and tools for the journey.**
 - a. **The skills that we have learned disempower darkness, brokenness, and disobedience; and, these skills empower transformation.**
 - b. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6
4. **Doing the works of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit** (John 14:12; Acts 1:8, 2:17-21).
5. **Doing the works of Jesus through power ministry** (Luke 4:18-19, 9:1-2, 10:1-2; Matthew 9:35-38).
 - a. We carry out our kingly authority and the authority of the kingdom of God primarily through prayer (priestly ministry).
 - b. The Lord led us to carve out time for him touch people with his power and presence (Ministry Time).
 - c. Ministry Teams are a practical way to do the works of Jesus.
6. **Becoming a house of prayer, both individually and corporately.**
 - a. *And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"? But you have made it 'a den of robbers'" (Mark 11:17).*
 - b. History belongs to the intercessor (Revelation 8:1-5).
7. **By living missionally with others** (missional communities).

Conclusion

All of us are invited to an incredible, life-long journey. None of us have arrived. None of us have mastered all the skills of transformation. None of us are like Christ yet. None of us move in the full measure of the Holy Spirit. God is not finished with you or me, yet.

There is so much more of our Triune God to experience, love, and discover. There is so much more of others to know, love, and help. There is so much more to do on mission with Jesus as the advancing church. How can we ever get bored? How can we ever settle? How can we ever give in to lesser things like comfort, convenience, and selfishness?

Application

1. **Challenge people in their journey** (Philippians 3:12-16).
 - a. *I admit that I haven't yet acquired the absolute fullness that I'm pursuing, but I run with passion into his abundance so that I may reach the purpose that Jesus Christ has called me to fulfill and wants me to discover.* 13 *I don't depend on my own strength to accomplish this; however I do have one compelling focus: I forget all of the past as I fasten my heart to the future instead.* 14 *I run straight for the divine invitation of reaching the heavenly goal and gaining the victory-prize through the anointing of Jesus.* 15 *So let all who are fully mature have this same passion,* and if anyone is not yet gripped by these desires, God will reveal it to them. 16 And *let us all advance together* to reach this victory-prize, following one path with one passion (Philippians 3:12-16 PassionNTPsa).
 - b. One cure for boredom is passionately cooperating with Jesus personally and living missionally with others on mission with Jesus.
 - c. See yourself as a life-long learner.
 - d. The mature mind set realizes that *mastery takes a lifetime.*
2. **Invite people to:** (application)
 - a. Join Calvary as we make this journey together
 - b. Re-enlist or re-up if you are already a member of Calvary
 - c. Show up consistently, regularly, and intentionally