

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

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BIBLICAL AND PASTORAL PURPOSE//

Based on **Habakkuk 3:2** (NIV84)

"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known..."

My Biblical and Pastoral purpose is to see the fame and deeds of God renewed and made known in our time through helping people possess a deep and abiding faithfulness to Jesus, a hunger for God's presence, and a love for their neighbor.

MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY//

Ministry for me has always been focused around helping people experience the relentless love of God and his overwhelming power to save. Seeing people set free from addictive habits, toxic mindsets, and destructive cultural norms is why I get up every day.

Some of the strongest indicators of the Kingdom of God invading earth are when the sick are healed, the oppressed are delivered, the captives are set free, and sin and strongholds are destroyed. Pursuing freedom, chains being broken, and people being restored to their **true identity** is the way of the kingdom.

This is why it's so important to remain committed to our own personal freedom, both spiritual and emotional, so we can be positioned to help those around us find freedom and experience the abundant life.

Freedom comes first, but to say free there has to be a well thought out plan around de-forming someone from their old life and re-forming them into the way of Jesus.

The primary ways I believe transformation like this happens is through:

1. Knowing our identity as God's children
2. Cultivating the presence of God
3. Deep formation in the way of Jesus
4. Pursuing deep friendships within the church
5. Possessing a genuine love for our neighbor.

1. KNOWING OUR IDENTITY AS GOD'S CHILDREN

- When a person accepts Jesus Christ as their savior, their true identity is established not by their own actions or past, but by their position as a child of God, inheriting the righteousness and new life of Christ. Essentially becoming a "new creation" with a transformed identity free from sin and defined by God's love and purpose.
- **There is nothing more important for a believer to know and understand at a soul level than this.**
- One of the primary reasons many Christians are powerless today is because they only know what they were saved from, but they don't understand what they were saved to.
- Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus brings us into God's family. No longer are we known as sinners, now we're God's children, and co-heirs with Christ. The significance of this cannot be overstated.
- Lasting transformation and discipleship must begin with our identity in Christ. Starting from any other place can cause problems for a believer later on down the road.

2. CULTIVATING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- Just like it was for Moses and the Israelites in Exodus 33, The presence of God is non-negotiable.
- Cultivating this through prayer, fasting, miracles, and worship are what separate the people of God from all other people on the planet.
- Standing in awe of God and believing Him for the miraculous is something that has been deeply entrenched in my DNA for as long as I can remember. It is something that I value personally, and this is why I desire to see the Church passionately seek the heart of God and contend for the impossible to become normal.
- This is how we are to pray, believe in faith, and live our lives: "on earth as it is in heaven."

3. DEEP FORMATION IN THE WAY OF JESUS

- Spiritual formation starts with taking Jesus' words seriously. The Sermon on the Mount while difficult at times to digest, remains the primary discipleship handbook we have to this day.
- The Christian life is meant to be noticeably different. By design, it's intended to be a counter cultural way of living. A sign pointing people to the Kingdom of God and an alternative glimpse for how human beings are meant to flourish.
- Learning how to walk daily in the way of Jesus, and not in the ways of the world, enables deep and lasting spiritual formation to take place in a person's life.
- 2,000 years later, making disciples still remains the primary function and purpose of the church.

4. PURSUING DEEP FRIENDSHIPS WITHIN THE CHURCH

- I have a strong conviction that church should be experienced as a family with deep relationships being formed around Jesus, who is our common bond. I firmly believe that Christian Community is extremely vital to anyone's spiritual success.

- Perhaps more than ever, the church must intentionally resist the gravitational pull of culture towards isolation, self-reliance, and the idea that we don't need other people. Christian community is the only way to experience the true Christian life.
- I believe the church is incredibly unique in that it gathers people from all walks of life and then through the blood of Jesus, forms them into a family. Our unity is not found in our race, sexuality, gender, socioeconomic statuses, political affiliations, or generational preferences. Our unity and common bond is only found in the blood of Jesus and the shared story we have as the redemptive people of God.

5. POSSESSING A GENUINE LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR

- Today, love is mostly transactional. We often love only when someone gives us a reason to love them. One of the most powerful ways for us to understand and demonstrate the depths of God's love for us is through learning to love people who can't or won't love us back.
- Choosing to love people who are unlovable, bound in sin, and stuck in cycles of dysfunction is one of the most Christlike things we can ever do. These people aren't charity to us, they're made in the image of God and are deeply loved by their creator. Love is what compels us.
- Showing love to our neighbor is one of the primary ways we change and transform ourselves. When we begin to look out for more than our own needs and interests, we become more like Jesus.
- The church needs to have a reputation in its community for the tangible needs its meeting. The people of the church need to have a peaceful and kind reputation with their neighbors so the light of Jesus can shine.

MINISTRY DISTINCTIVES//

These 6 distinctives are common ways ministry is expressed through my leadership.

1. GOSPEL-FOCUSED

- Remembering the life we have been given through the sacrificial death of Jesus is central to why Christians gather. There are many reasons for the church to gather, but the Gospel should always be featured and presented every time we meet through either worship, teaching, communion, baptism or testimony.

2. MINISTRY AS A TEAM

- I am at my best when I am on a team. I am not a "one-man show." Working as a team is so much better than doing ministry alone. It also removes the pressure to be the smartest person in the room and allows everyone to maximize their strengths and develop their weaknesses. A big focus for me as a leader is getting the right team together so the ministry of the church can thrive.

3. ENGAGING TEACHING THAT IS BOTH PERSONALLY AND CULTURALLY APPLICABLE.

- The greatest story ever told has always been the foundation of the church and yet just about everyone who grew up in church, and has since left, will describe a boring and lifeless experience. We owe the story of Jesus so much more than that and must do all that we can to communicate his story in a way that is exciting, engaging, and applicable to everyday life. Every sermon, class, and teaching moment must be taken seriously and crafted in a such way that people want to listen to what we have to say.

4. WOMEN IN MINISTRY

- I have a huge value for women in ministry and leadership. I grew up around powerful women. I have led powerful women. I have a home full of powerful women. I believe Jesus modeled this value. The Bible in my perspective is more empowering than disempowering towards women. People over the years have taken a few hard-to-understand scriptures and weaponized them to silence the voice of women in the church.

5. DRIVEN BY ETERNITY

- Contrary to popular belief, we do not only live once. We actually live twice! The reality of eternity must fuel our conviction that there is more to life than this life. Seeing everything through this lens is what enables the church to focus on what matters most in order to help those who are lost, hurting, and broken.

6. A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

- We owe the Gospel our very best. We have this message of life for those who are dying and the way in which we package and present this message can sometimes determine its effectiveness. The church cannot mishandle this message and must possess a high value for creativity, thinking outside of the box, and trying new things in order to maximize its kingdom impact.

TOP FIVE FUNCTIONS OF A PASTOR//

- 1. AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS** — It's important for pastors to live what they preach. Every pastor should be able to say with great humility, the words of the Apostle Paul, *"follow me as I follow Christ."*
- 2. BIBLICAL PREACHING AND TEACHING** — At a time when there is so much Biblical illiteracy in the church, pastor's need to teach the truth of God's word in a way that can be understood and walked out.
- 3. SHEPHERDING** — Pastors are to humbly and compassionately care for the spiritual and felt needs of the people. They have a responsibility to care for their local congregation as well as for the poor, the needy, and the outcast in their community.
- 4. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION & VISION** — Proverbs 29 says, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."* It is vital to the health of any church for the pastor

to set the expectations around who the church will be and what they will be about.

5. **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** — The church is to exist for the purpose of making disciples and the pastor must make sure this is happening. People need to be shown and taught how to walk daily in the ways of Jesus.