

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Life in Christ | Mission Minded

OUR MISSION

We exist to help all people experience redemption, live in freedom, and become partners in the Gospel.

JOHN 15:12-17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

This past weekend we continued with Part 3 in our series, *Life in Christ*, and focused in on John 15:12-17.

This passage from John shows us how life in Christ compels us to be on mission for Christ. It also helps us to understand the motive, method and power of ministry.

Notes:

First, the motive of ministry (John 15:12-14) **is love.**

- It is NOT personal fame or riches or church-clout.
- God's love for us compels us to love others.

Romans 5:8, *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* He loved us, now we need to go love others!

As we grow in our understanding of God's love for us, it naturally leads us to loving one another. What will this love look like? Sacrifice.

- Missions require sacrifice. Sacrifice asks, *"How much more do I love the world than I love myself?"*

The 17th century saw worldwide missions established, and the early leaders were certain of two things:

1. A strong and peaceful Christian society has been the best catalyst for the missions movement in all of history.
 - This is why Christians absolutely ought to engage in the public square.
 - The last 1500 years of human history shows that a society friendly to the Gospel effectively sends the Gospel to the rest of the world.
 - This is also true at the individual church level. Healthy churches send out strong missionaries.
2. Taking the Gospel to the world would requires deep sacrifice.
 - *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends..."* (Jn 15:13) Yes, love is measured and it is measured in sacrifice.

What We're Doing:

Revere College:

We are "equipping a new generation of virtuous citizens to think critically, apply doctrine to all areas of life, and live missionally through the family, church, work, and community."

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. Malachi 4:2

Bella Vita Network:

We are serving the least of these and protecting life.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. James 1:27

Church Planting:

We're planting Clear Truth churches who'll fight with us.

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:14-15

This is what we are doing corporately to make a generational impact.

What about you?

- The more deeply we understand the Father's love, the more we lose ourselves and the more opportunities are opened for us to love our neighbors.

The method of ministry (Jn 15:15-16) is US.

- Jesus first called us into friendship ...or, as we call it around here, partnership. He has revealed to us His grand plan – discipling of the nations! And we're invited into the inner circle.
- Second, He ordains (appoints) us to ministry, "*but I chose you and appointed you...*" Note that He is speaking to the disciples, but there are some general principles for us:
 - Christ's love compels our mission engagement.
 - Look at Christ's love...He granted them grace and then granted them appointment.
 - He has 'appointed', or commissioned/ordained, us. 1 Timothy 1:12, "*I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,..*"
- "...that you should go..." We should feel compelled, like we have a burden or burning desire –it feels like something we **HAVE** to do.
 - What do we **HAVE** to do for the ministry? Bear fruit that lasts! Jesus isn't into short-term thinking or investments –He wants fruit with staying power.

What is God calling you to do?

- Youth or Kids ministry?
- Biblical counseling?
- Bella Vita Network?
- Full-time ministry or starting a Life Group?

What is it? He is calling us. Respond!

The power of ministry (Jn 15:16) is a powerful prayer life.

Ask and He will answer. Fight battles in the spiritual realm **FIRST!**

- John 15:7, "*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*"
- *We abide in Him and then bear fruit that abides.*

Two Next Steps:

- Fund through sacrifice (partner in the Missions 2024 50k/50k Challenge).
- Operate in our appointment.