

## *Devotional: The Mission & Vision Of The Early Church*

1. Our 30-Second Testimony – who wants to share?!?

### *Mission & Vision Statements: Review*



What's the difference between...

A Mission statement is:

A Vision Statement is:

Core Values are:

A Strategy:

### *From **The Unstuck Church***

A Mission Statement

**“The mission statement should express to your congregation, your staff, your volunteers, and your community what your church is all about. The vision statement, on the other hand, describes where you picture the church to be heading in the future.”**

**“That simple mission statement is the foundation for everything else. Here’s the great thing about having a very clear mission statement that defines why the church exists: it makes it clear whether people should join your mission or not. “**

**“Hopefully many, many people will be captivated by your mission statement and want to join you and add their gifts and abilities, their time, their prayer support, their money, and so on.”**

**“Your statement should say, “This is who we are. Do you want to join us on this big mission?” When you land on a clear statement, it will become the rallying cry that encourages people to take the next step in engaging in what you do.”**

**“Typically, in twelve words or less, I help the church develop a mantra that answers the why question. Why do we exist? For The Unstuck Group, as an example, that statement is pretty simple: “We help churches get unstuck.” That’s why we do what we do.”**

### A Vision Statement

**“In addition to mission buy-in, though, everyone needs to clearly know where they are going. That’s the vision. The vision has to be specific and measurable. It will probably be reflected in several statements that paint a clear picture of where God is taking your church in the future. If you have a solid vision, it will both rally and repel people.”**

**“I like to develop the vision for three to five years out. I also like to make the vision specific and measurable. Sometimes it includes actual numerical targets. Other times it names a specific initiative that the church hopes to complete. As long as it’s realistically possible with a move of God, bigger vision is always better.”**

### Your Core Values

**“The values reflect the underlying principles that shape the culture of the church. If developed properly, they should really set the church apart from every other church in the region. They should drive the actions and decisions of every person on the team.”**

### Your Strategy

**“The strategy statement clarifies how the mission and vision will be accomplished. Now I take the big picture and help them break it into bite-sized chunks to prioritize what needs to happen in the next six to twelve months. I want everyone to understand that this is what I’m supposed to be focused on today.”**



What are the benefits of a church having a clear sense of identity, direction, and culture?

What are some of the mission and vision statements you've discovered from other churches? Discuss them, what you like and don't like.

As we've seen, Jesus himself operated under a clear sense of "mission" and "vision" which guided him on what he did, and who he spent time with, and the choices he made.

Some of his clear mission statements:

*"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
~ Mark 10:45*

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." ~ Luke 19:10*

*"I will build my church." ~ Matthew 16:18*

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world."  
~ Matthew 24:14*

*"I am the light of the world." ~ John 8:12*

*"For this purpose I have come to this hour...And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw  
all people to myself." ~ John 12:27, 32*

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." ~ Matthew 28:18-20*

We began discussing this last week, but let's see if we can nail down the larger categories or "canopies" under which we could arrange Jesus' activities and ideas.

Now let's examine how well the first Christians did in following their Lord's example. Using the separate handout, identify one or two "missional ideas" found in them.

#### Your Assignment for Next Week:

- Read chapter 3 of "The Unstuck Church".
- Prayerfully dream about what you would like to see FBC looking like 3-5 years from now. Write a paragraph describing what you see. Write a second paragraph outlining what we will have done to arrive at that place.