

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to glorify God by leading individuals to salvation in Christ, fully incorporating them into His body, nurturing them to Christ-like maturity, and equipping them for service in the family of God and in the world.

Our Message: The Gospel

Our Mission: Make Disciples

Our Method: Christian Love

### THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us that God is both loving (1 John 4:8) and just (Deut. 32:4). God in His love desires a right relationship with everyone, but God in His justice cannot ignore sin. Man, by his nature and deeds, is a sinner (Romans 3:23). Sin results in separation (Isaiah 59:2) and death (Romans 6:23). Man, because of his sin, is separated from a right relationship with God; man is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Unless this condition of spiritual death is remedied in this life, it will lead to eternal death (Heb. 9:27, 2 Thess. 1:8,9), eternal separation from God.

The good news is that God sent his Son Jesus to save us from death and separation and provide the way for us to have eternal life. Jesus is God the Son (John 1:1,14,17) and is the only way to God the Father (John 14:6). Jesus is our Creator (Col. 1:13-16) and Lord (Acts 10:36), and will one day return to establish an eternal kingdom (Dan. 7:13,14, Rev. 11:15). Jesus Christ came to die for our sins and provide the way back to God (1 Peter 3:18). Eternal life (salvation) is a free gift (Romans 6:23) offered to anyone who truly believes in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life (Acts 4:12, John 8:24).

How can a person become a Christian? Many have expressed their faith in Jesus Christ through a prayer, such as the following: "Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot be right with God through my own efforts. But I believe that You died for me and paid the penalty for my sin. I now ask You to come into my life as my Lord and Savior. I now place my trust in You alone, Lord Jesus, for my salvation. Help me to follow and obey You as Lord of my life."

The Bible says, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We can't live the Christian life in our own strength, but God has provided all the resources we need--such as

His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), His promises (2 Peter 1:4), and His grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)--to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Jesus promises an abundant, eternal life for all who put their trust in Him (John 10:10, John 5:24).

## MAKING DISCIPLES

Paul didn't settle for mere converts; rather, he followed a strategy of spiritual reproduction (1 Cor. 4:15,16). Paul instructed Timothy, "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). Paul labored with people to help them mature in Christ and develop Christlikeness (Gal. 4:19, Col. 1:28,29, Eph. 4:11-13).

The Greek word for disciple is *mathetes*, which means a learner; a disciple is someone who follows one's teaching.

A disciple puts Jesus first in his life (Luke 14:26-35); he is willing to submit every area of his life to God, and to live for Him by His grace and provision, controlled and empowered by the Spirit of Christ (2 Cor. 5:15, Rom. 12:1, 2 Chron. 16:9, Jn.14:21, Gal. 2:20).

A disciple abides in God's word (John 8:31); that is, he has a stable belief in and understanding of the Scriptures as the basis of faith and the standard of life (Matt. 7:24-27, Eph. 4:14, 1 Tim. 4:6, 2 Tim. 1:13, 3:14-17, Rom. 10:17, Acts 20:32, James 1:22-25).

And a disciple bears fruit (Jn. 15:8); he increasingly displays the character of Christ in his nature and actions, and is involved in obeying Christ's command to make disciples (Gal. 5:22,23, Matt. 28:18-20, Matt. 4:19, Jn. 17:18-20, Gal. 4:19, Col. 1:28,29).

## CHRISTIAN LOVE

"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (1st John 3:18). The little word 'love' is probably the most overused and misused word in our language. 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins' (1st John 4:10). 'Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another' (1st John 4:11). True love in our own lives is manifest in a number of vital ways. First of all, it is evidenced by our guarding the integrity of His Word: 'Whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected' (1st John 2:5). Next, it involves separation from the world: 'If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him' (1st John 2:15). Obedience is another evidence: 'For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments' (1st John 5:3). 'And this is love, that we walk after His commandments' (2nd John 6). True love is courageous and confident in all circumstances. 'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear' (1st John 4:18). Such love will give up possessions or even life itself for the brethren....Love therefore,

is not something we write about or talk about ('word or tongue ), but something we do, 'in deed and in truth.' Love is always best measured in terms of the love of God Himself. 'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16)."

--Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.