



MISSION, VISION, & CORE COMMITMENTS

The Mission of Main Street Church: Why do we exist?

Main Street Church exists to experience and communicate the gospel in our communities and around the world.

- As good as it is, if we only said “communicating” the gospel, that is very one dimensional (that’s all we do), non-personal (a book can do that), and unilateral (proclaiming without partaking).
- What is the gospel? The gospel is the good news that God has accomplished the redemption of all things through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and is in the process of reconciling all things to himself through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- By experiencing the gospel we want to show how the redeeming power of the gospel permeates every aspect of our lives individually and corporately.
- Our vision is not just for people to come learn an evangelistic presentation and then go and “communicate it” in their community and around the world, but for them to be pierced by the gospel, transformed by it and then with every aspect of life work to reflect and communicate it.

The Vision of Main Street Church: What is God calling us to?

Our vision is to see our communities flourish as God intended.

- Our vision is what will happen if we accomplish our mission.
- If we experience and communicate the gospel in our communities, they will flourish as God intended.
- We know that we still live in a world under the curse of sin, and there will always be struggle with that until Christ returns, but we get to experience new life in Christ that begins leading us back to what God always intended.
- We want to see people’s marriages flourishing as God intended; relationships; families; in vocations; in everything we do we want to seek from God’s word what his design and intention was for it, and strive for that.
- We want to bring the whole gospel to the whole person.

Core Commitments

What commitments do we have that shape who we are as a local church?

1. God's Glory

The overarching core commitment of this church is a commitment above all else to God's glory. Imagine this like the umbrella from which our 3 other core commitments flow.

We are committed to God's glory above everything else because He is.

- » Isaiah 48:11 God says, "My glory I will not give to another."
- » Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other,"
- » Isaiah 43:25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,"

APPLICATION: BEING COMMITTED TO GOD'S GLORY

- This means we want everything we do to be driven by a passion for God's glory.
- Our efforts must not be driven by a desire for prestige in the eyes of people.
- Our ultimate goal is not to be respectable and civilized in the eyes of culture.
- Our goal is to make God look great in everything we do by worshipping the way He has prescribed in His word.
- The question we want to ask ourselves at our jobs, in our families, in our marriages and in everything we do is: how can I make God look great?

Our overarching commitment as a church is to the glory of God above all things and in all things. The first way we do this is a commitment to:

2. God's Word

You can't glorify God apart from his word—because:

- God has revealed himself in His word — Jesus is the Word that became flesh.
- The only way we know who God is and, consequently, how to glorify Him, is by His Word that He has given to us.
 - » Ezekiel 37: It was with his word that God created, and it is with his word that he re-creates.
 - » Ephesians 2:5 "Even when we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ."
 - » Romans 10 "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."
- As a church we are committed to God's word because it is God's word that gives life, and thus it is God's word that He uses to glorify His name.
- The word of God gives life by the power of the Spirit of God, so we, as a church, are committed to God's Word. He has given it to us to find life in Him.

APPLICATION: BEING COMMITTED TO GOD'S WORD

What this means is we believe that . . .

- » All God's word is relevant to all God's people all the time.
- » God's word shapes us, we don't shape God's word.
- » God's word determines truth, we don't determine what we think is true and then impose it on God's word.

One way we want to show that we are committed to God's word is by doing things like we do Sunday mornings where we publicly read it and honor it. God's word itself gives us an example of this type of honor: Nehemiah 8:1-6.

We want God's word to be the source and focus of our sermons, and we want God's word to shape how we worship Him, because we want to glorify Him. We are committed to God's glory, and we are committed to His word.

3. God's Mission

We are committed to God's glory, and from that flows a commitment to God's word, and next, a commitment to God's Mission.

God's ultimate mission is to fill the earth with His glory, and the way He has chosen to do that is through creating a community of people who will reflect his glory throughout the whole earth. In Num. 14:21 God says as surely as He lives, "all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord."

APPLICATION: BEING COMMITTED TO GOD'S MISSION

For us as a church to be committed to God's mission, means that we also are committed to filling the earth with the glory of God. This means . . .

- » Proclaiming God's word so that more people might know God through the good news of Jesus.
- » Experiencing and communicating the gospel to our communities and around the world.
- » Working with other people in India, and Peru, and the UK to make the glory of Christ known in all the earth.
- » We as a church strive to display the glory of God in our work, in our neighborhoods, in our finances, and around our dinner tables.

4. God's Family

- Our commitment to God's family means we recognize that we cannot know God's glory individually; we cannot understand and obey God's word individually, and we cannot participate in God's mission individually.
- God has designed us to know him in the context of each other, to obey his word in the context of each other, and to participate in his mission with each other.

- This community of God's family is called the church.
- God says you shall be my people, not my person.
- In 1 Peter 2:9 Peter says, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
- If you have been redeemed by the power of God in Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit has transformed your heart, and lives within you, you are part of the new humanity that will live forever with God in a renewed creation, to glorify God and enjoy him forever.
- Being committed to God's family mean we are committed to each other with all our foibles, flaws, and failures. It doesn't mean we overlook those things and pretend they don't exist, it means we look them square in the face and say, "I love you anyways."

APPLICATION: BEING COMMITTED TO GOD'S FAMILY

Here is why a commitment to God's family is so important.

- First, Jesus said "I will build my church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it," so God's family is his plan.
- But secondly, we are going to mess up and make mistakes in our commitments to God's glory, God's word, and God's mission. We aren't going to do everything perfectly, we are going to make messes, we are going to make mistakes, we might hurt each other's feelings, but we have to be committed to each other because God has committed himself to us.
- This means we are patient, kind, forgiving, gracious, merciful, and selfless
- It means we love each other as Paul prayed for us to love each other in Ephesians 3, "—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."
- It means we embody 1 Corinthians 13.
- It means that when we think of God's family, we don't just think of this congregation that meets here, but we think of our brothers and sisters at other churches in St. Charles and all around the world.
- The church is not perfect, because it is full of imperfect people like me, but the church is the bride of Christ, and he loves her. So we are committed to God's family, the church.