

Missio Dei

A person's silhouette is visible on the right side of the image, looking towards a vast, colorful starry sky. The sky features a prominent nebula with shades of orange, yellow, and pink, set against a dark background filled with numerous stars.

Our Mission

Recap Missional

A proper understanding of missional begins with recovering a **missionary understanding of God**. By his very nature God is a "sent one" who takes the initiative to redeem his creation.

As the church finds itself in a **new position** in society, she will need to examine her **self-identity**. If the church is to survive in a postmodern culture it is necessary that she **recover her missionary identity**.



Recap

Sanctification-The Process

Step 1: We must die to ourselves

I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live**, but Christ lives in me. **Galatians 2:20**

Step 2: Set Apart

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, **soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**



Recap

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has **sent me**, I am **sending you.**”

John 20:21



Recap

Missional Balance

Gathered

Scattered

Called

Sent



Recap

progress not perfection



Time for Christians to Unplug from Our Secular Culture

“Losing people who are members of the Church in name only is an **imaginary loss**. It may in fact be more honest for those who leave and healthier for those who stay. We should be focused on **commitment**, not numbers or institutional throw-weight. We have nothing to be afraid of as long as we act with faith and courage.”

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput



The Demise of the Nominal Christian, Ed Stetzer

Cultural Christians—is made up of people who believe themselves to be Christians simply because their culture tells them they are. They are Christian by heritage (grew up in church, not Christ).

Congregational Christians—is similar to the first group, except these individuals at least have some connection to congregational life. They have a "home church" they grew up in and perhaps where they were married. They might even visit occasionally. (CEO's)

Convictional Christians—is made up of people who are actually living according to their faith.



The Demise of the Nominal Christian

“As Christians find themselves more and more on the margins in American society, **people are beginning to count the cost.** While it used to serve Americans well to carry the label "Christian" in most circumstances (think about running for public office, for instance), **it can actually be polarizing or considered intolerant now.** So for those who really don't have any skin in the game, shedding the label makes sense.” **Ed Stetzer**



Nominal

Authentic



Reports of Christianity's demise in America have been greatly exaggerated. While the main thrust of good research does indicate that the percentage of Americans who self-identify as Christians is declining, these data are not necessarily a bad thing. If three out of four Americans call themselves Christians, we are in big trouble.



The Need and the Reality

He told them, “**The harvest is plentiful**, but the workers are **few**. Ask the **Lord of the harvest**, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. **Luke 10:2-3**

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and **broad is the road that leads to destruction**, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and **only a few find it**.
Matthew 7:13-14



**What if God's mission through us isn't about
what we can do for God but about partnering
with what God is already doing**

We do not create, we serve the Creator



Mission of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is connected to the word atonement. Atonement means a condition without tension (at-one-ment). When Christ died on the cross for us, He removed the tension between us and God

By Christ's atonement we have restored relationship with God without any barriers (if we chose). Our ability to have a full relationship is restored. This is reconciliation and this is our message and mission

We live, act like a people who have restored relationship with God



Mission of Reconciliation

Being reconciled to God is not a one-time thing, it is a constant thing. Every day I must humble myself before the Lord and ask him to cover my sins, speak a good word for me to the Father, please forget my thousands of transgressions. Every day.

Reconciliation is only possible when the distance between us and God is felt, known



Mission of Reconciliation

Since, then, **we know** what it is to **fear the Lord**, we try to persuade others. **What we are is plain to God**, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. **2 Corinthians 5:11**

fear-dread, reverence

if we forget what we are how can we proclaim the “good news” to others (misplaced identity)



Mission of Reconciliation

If we are “**out of our mind**,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For **Christ’s love compels us**, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **vs 13-14**

For the message of the cross is **foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **1 Corinthians 1:18**

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and **cannot understand them** because they are discerned only through the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 2:14**



Mission of Reconciliation

So from now on we regard no one from a **worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **vs 16**

Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **vs 17**

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and **separated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. **Ephesians 4:17-18**



Mission of Reconciliation

All this is from God, **who reconciled us to himself through Christ** and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has **committed to us the message of reconciliation. vs 18-19**



Mission of Reconciliation

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, **as though God were making his appeal through us.** We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **vs 20-21**



Mission of Reconciliation

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (**your life**), and in all Judea (**your neighbours**) and Samaria (**those who are different**), and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

