

THE MESSAGE AND MISSION OF JESUS

The renewal and restoration of the American Church must begin with an awe-inspiring encounter with Jesus, the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Messiah and Lord. This central focus on Jesus is critical to the health and growth of missional churches. For this to happen, we need to gain clarity regarding the message and mission of Jesus, and then let his words and actions shape the message and mission of the church (Dave Olson).

WORDS AND ACTIONS:

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

Message 1: Forgiveness

Jesus came to forgive our sins and reconcile us to God.

Mission 1: The Cross

Jesus sacrificed his life for the sins of the whole world on the cross.

Message 2: Freedom

Jesus came to destroy the power of Satan and deliver us from bondage.

Mission 2: The Grave

Jesus fought the decisive battle with Satan, triumphing through the grave.

Message 3: Transformation

Jesus came to change our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Mission 3: The Resurrection

Jesus was authenticated as the Son of God through the resurrection.

Message 4: Compassion

As God's beloved children, Jesus treated everyone with compassion and love.

Mission 4: The Ascension

Jesus challenged earthly principalities and powers through his ascension.

Message 5: Church

Jesus summoned his followers to become the new people of God.

Mission 5: Pentecost

Jesus, by his Spirit, established his church as the new people of God through the day of Pentecost.

THE MESSAGE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

- 1:** The church (and every believer) is to proclaim the message of forgiveness in Christ, producing reconciliation with God. This is called **EVANGELISM**. It happens publically and personally when people are loved and confronted with Jesus—his message and mission.
- 2:** The church (and every believer) is to help people break the bonds that hold and oppress them, helping restore, in them, God's original creation. This is called **MINISTRY** and happens through prayer, healing, and practical help. This leads to spiritual, emotional, and physical freedom.
- 3:** The church (and every believer) is to help people live a new, resurrected life in Christ, through the filling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This is called **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**. It happens through teaching, Bible study, spiritual disciplines, and spiritual direction.
- 4:** The church (and every believer) is to be a countercultural force in the community, in the nation, and in the world. This is called **LOVE** and is to be expressed locally, regionally, and globally, through compassion, mercy, and justice.
- 5:** The church (and every believer) is to be God's community of broken-yet-healing people that provides love, support, and accountability for each other. This is called **TRUE COMMUNITY** and happens through worship, fellowship, feasting, and Holy Communion, and multiplies through church planting and congregational vitality.