THE MISSIONAL POSTURE
OF THE CHURCH

The Missional Posture of the Church

- “Missio Dei” (lat) - *Mission of God*

- The salvific mission of God toward the world which centers on the incarnate Son (*Incarnate simply means “in the flesh”*)
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The Mission is Orchestrated by the Triune God

- The Father sends the Son
  John 3:17; 6:38
- The Father & Son sends the Holy Spirit
  John 16:7; 14:26
- The Son sends the Church w/the Spirit
  John 17:18; Acts 1:4-5,8
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• We are Sent in FULL Power
  
  For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance.....

  1 Thes1:5 (HCSB)

• We are Sent in FULL Authority

  So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” 2Cor 5:20 (NLT)
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What does it mean to be “Missional”?

• “Missional” is simply the adjective form of the noun “missionary”. It describes a church that sees God’s mission as the unconditional standard that defines, shapes and sends the church to participate in what God is already doing in the earth.

• *This TERM constitutes the essence/nature of the Church*
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Question: Why Young Adults Leave Church?

• #1 Reason - Churches seem overprotective.
• A few of the defining characteristics of today’s teens and young adults are their unprecedented access to ideas and worldviews as well as their abnormal consumption of popular culture.

• As Christians, they express the desire for their faith in Christ to connect to the world they live in. However, much of their experience of Christianity feels stifling, fear-based and opposed to risk.
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• The Church needs to become MISSIONAL WITHIN ITSELF…first!
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• **Question: Why Adults Switch Churches?**
• #1 Reasons- There were two specific reasons people switched churches:
  
  • **28%** felt that "church was not helping me to develop spiritually".
  
  • **20%** of respondents said they left because they "did not feel engaged or involved in meaningful church work."
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- The Church needs to become MISSIONAL OUTSIDE OF ITSELF...second
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- The Church no longer appeals to the local community
- The Church has become a place of entertainment
- The Church is seen as a place for charity
- The Church is seen as a place of hypocrites
- The Church has lost its place of relevance
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What Posture do we model?

• **Defensive model** – Where we wait for souls to come to us?

• **Offensive model** - Where we go and pursue souls for the Kingdom?
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THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO BECOMING MISSIONAL

A. Rethinking our current methodology
   Acts 8:1-4 (TLB)

B. Becoming committed to the Call of the Mission
   Lk 9:57–62
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- Acts 8:1-4 (TLB)

- Paul was in complete agreement with the killing of Stephen. And a great wave of persecution of the believers began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles fled into Judea and Samaria.
  2 (But some godly Jews came and with great sorrow buried Stephen.)
  3 Paul was like a wild man, going everywhere to devastate the believers, even entering private homes and dragging out men and women alike and jailing them.
  4 But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus!
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Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”

And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.”

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”