

# PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

**INTRODUCTION:** It is said, “If you aim at nothing you will hit it every time.” Too often Christians meander through their spiritual lives with little focus or intentionality. However, Christ saved you for a purpose (Eph 2.10), and you are called to make the most of your time (Eph 5.16). While you do not know the particular way God will guide your life, there are some general expectations that the Bible prescribes. The following is a philosophy of ministry, which will lay out why this ministry exists and the expectations the Bible has for believers.

**I. VISION:** To call young singles to wholeheartedly follow Christ, biblically equip them to be passionate disciplers (Mk 1.17), and send them into the world to be difference makers for Christ (Mt 28.18-20).

*Questions:* Would you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Where do you think you are at in this process? Are you learning to follow Christ, being equipped to disciple, or need to go and make disciples?

**II. PURPOSE OF MINISTRY:** The tri-fold purpose of the church is to **worship** Christ, **walk** with Christ, and to **witness** for Christ. You were saved to worship God (Ex 3:12, 12:31; *serve = worship*), not just on Sundays, but with your entire being and life (Rom 12.1-2). As you walk with Christ you are called to serve the body of Christ (Gal 5.13) and build up one another (1 Thes 5.11; Heb 3.13). Believers are not only to minister to the body of Christ but also witness for Christ. This is to be accomplished through personal proclamation (Acts 1.8; 1 Pt 3.15) and supporting global efforts to extend the gospel (Rom 15.20; 1 Thes 1.8).

**Worship** - Do you read your Bible regularly? What is your plan for reading thru the Bible? Do you pray and how do you plan to grow your prayer life? Is Sunday worship a priority? Do you have a home church that you regularly attend?

**Walk** - How are you developing your skills to disciple another person? Do you look for opportunities to serve? Are you over-committed or under-committed in this area?

**Witness** - Do you have a functional gospel presentation? Are you pursuing opportunities to share the gospel? How are you engaged in God’s global work?

**III. THEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK:** The pillars that make up the theological foundation of ministry.

**A. High View of God** - God is great (Neh 1.5). No thought or reality can compare with God (Ps 40.5). He alone is worthy of glory and our exclusive worship (Is 42.8, 48.11) as the sovereign over the universe (Ps 93.1, Rom 13.1).

**B. High View of Scripture** - The Bible contains the very words of God (2 Tm 3.16). They are sufficient to provide all one needs for life and godliness (2 Pt 1.3).

**C. Low View of Man** - All men are depraved (Rom 3.10-12) and have fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3.23). Apart from the grace of God, man is hopeless to save himself (Eph 2.8-9; Ti 3.5-7).

**D. High View of the Church** - Jesus Christ gave His life to establish the church, the body of Christ (1 Pt 1.17-19). We as believers are called to be committed and learn how to minister to one another (Heb 10.24-25).

**E. High View of the Gospel** - The gospel is the good news of how man can be righteous before God and spend eternity with Him (Rom 1.16-17). We must embrace the gospel (Rom 10.9-10), cherish it every day, and boldly proclaim this truth to a lost and dying world (Lk 19.10).

*Questions,* do you affirm the following theological statements? If not, what are areas of disagreement? What are areas that you struggle with practically even though you agree with intellectually?

**IV. CULTURE:** The Greek word *Charis* means grace and should be the source of biblical community. The following are six traits of a biblical community put into the acronym CHARIS.

**Charity** - a loving community rather than selfish (John 13:34; Rom 12.10; 1 John 4:11).

Do you regularly love on others in the body of Christ? How can you improve in loving others?

**Humility** - a dependent and teachable community rather than arrogant (Prv 3.5-6, 11.2; 1 Pt 5.5).

What areas of pride do you struggle with most? How can you seek to live more humbly before God and others?

**Authenticity** - a transparent community rather than superficial (Gal 6.2; Jas 5.13-18).

Have you cultivated relationships where you can share what is really going on in your life? Who are those people? If not, what steps are you going to take to cultivate those relationships?

**Return of Christ** - an urgent community rather than lackadaisical (Titus 2:11-13, 1 Pt 4:7).

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself as far as making the most of your time? Why?

**Initiative** - a proactive community rather than passive (1 Tm 4.10; Prv 21.25-26).

Do you look for ways to participate and help out in the church you attend? How can you use your natural and spiritual gifts to benefit the body of Christ?

**Service** - a ministering community rather than consumeristic (Mk 9.35; 1 Pt 4.10).

Do you come to church prepared to serve and care for others? How could you better strive to encourage others in the body of Christ?

**V. BUILDING A PERSONAL MINISTRY PLAN:** In most personal vision plans, you are called upon to cultivate your own vision/ministry plan. However, the Bible is very clear about our vision, purpose, and theology as a Christian. The purpose of your life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The mission of your life is making disciples, and teaching them to observe all that God has commanded. These are non-negotiable commitments; but what these commitments look like in an individual’s life will vary. With this in mind, consider the following.

The purpose of this document is not to put together a business plan for your life and tell God what you are going to do for Him. Rather this is an opportunity for you to prayerfully consider how you want to pursue kingdom work this coming year. However, know that these plans are subject to change, as this is a work in process that can be altered as God providentially directs your steps.

A. What practical steps can you take in your life right now to live out this vision?

<i>In what ways do you need to follow Christ?</i>	<i>In what ways do you need to be equipped?</i>	<i>In what ways do you need to reach out?</i>

B. Consider the worship, walk, and witness questions above and how you think God is calling you to grow in these primary purposes of the church. (Think about the context of your life as a student, a single, a young married, a parent, an empty nester, etc...)

<i>How can you personalize the purposes of ministry?</i>	<i>How can you keep these purposes central in your Christian life?</i>

C. Based on the theological framework, what would you like to know about theologically? What goals do you have for knowing God? Do you have a Bible Reading plan to familiarize yourself with the entire Bible?

<i>What is a one-year goal?</i>	<i>What is a five-year goal?</i>	<i>What is a ten-year goal?</i>

D. Is your participation in the group contributing to a healthy or toxic community? How can you align yourself to the values mentioned in the acronym CHARIS?

<i>What aspect of biblical community do you want to work on?</i>	<i>What can you do to reinforce these concepts within the community?</i>

E. Write out a prayer yielding your plans to the Lord and asking the Lord to direct your steps. Pray for diligence and perseverance in pursuing Christ and these plans. Pray for wisdom to discern the difference between the Holy Spirit changing your plans and when the flesh is trying to discourage you. Pray that you would be open for whatever Christ would want to do in your life.