



Mission, Values and Vision Development Process - Introduction

Mission Resource Network's Church Equipping process is designed to help churches develop and live out a "God-Directed Missions Ministry" (see the Ministry Pyramid at end of document). A church must establish a strong foundation for individual and communal Bible Study to identify the character and nature of God. In addition, the church must begin to listen more intently to the word of God and intentionally and specifically obey what they are receiving from God. This can be done through a Discovery Bible Study process or some other process which develops the habit of becoming obedient followers of Jesus. One of the next steps in the transformation process is to clearly identify the church's mission, values, and vision.

- **Mission** answers the *what* question: what are we supposed to be doing? What is our divine strategic intent? What does God want us to accomplish? Perhaps the place to start is with God's desire and mission since our role is to join Him in His mission.
 - Jesus believed an understanding of your core mission to be important. After his resurrection and before his ascension, He gave the church its mission. Reflect on Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-49; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8.
 - Read through the entire New Testament, the entire Bible looking for God's assignment to us. It seems difficult to come up with anything that strays too far away from what we call, *The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)* and *The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40)*.
 - Purpose is different from your mission. Purpose helps to answer the *why* question? Why are we here? Why do we exist? Mission, however, answers the *what* question: What are we supposed to be doing? One church has articulated their purpose and mission in the following way:

Purpose: *We exist to glorify God in word, worship and in our walk. We believe that we have been called to be salt and light in a dark world so that our Father in heaven may be praised. (Matthew 5:16).*

Mission: *We believe that we have been called to be co-workers together with God in an eternal mission (1 Corinthians 3:9). This eternal purpose of God is two-fold and is best described in Matthew 28:18-20. Primarily God desires that all men be saved and come to knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). Therefore, his disciples are to make disciples of all the nations. However, for one to "make disciples" they must first be a disciple of Jesus. Therefore, the second aspect of God's eternal purpose is that we, as Christians, be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 3:18). We focus on these two aspects of our mission: 1) **Being Disciples of Jesus** and 2) **Making Disciples of Jesus**.*

- **Values** answers the *why* question, "why do we do what we are doing?"
- **Vision** answers the *where* question, "where are we going?" A vision is a clear, challenging picture of the future of the church as you believe it can and must be. (See document, *Development of a Vision*).