

## OUR MISSION: EXPRESSING GOD'S GLORY

### 1. Our Mission Is Determined By Our Identity

- Our identity is directly connected to God's identity, and so our mission is determined by fully understanding God's identity, and expressing that identity to others

### 2. Expressing God's Identity Is Expressing His Glory

2 Corinthians 3:18, NIV – “And ye, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

- We are called to reflect God's glory to the people around us, which is expressing the identity of God, to the people around us

Exodus 33:18, NIV – “Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory.'”

Exodus 34:6-7, NIV – “And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. ...'”

- The essence of God's glory, is His incredible character, His incredible identity
- God gave Moses a clear and accurate vision of who He was

### 3. Our Mission Is To Clearly Reflect God's Identity

- Our calling on this earth, is to unveil ourselves, get rid of our masks and our pretensions and everything that would block the revelation of the image of Christ within us, and reflect to everyone around us, that image within us
- Our primary task is to daily, in an unhindered way, reflect that image to everyone around us, that they too, will desire to worship God, and accept our invitation to come into relationship with him, and enter into the communion, the common union, of the family of God
- Vision is all about seeing God rightly, and then reflecting what we see to the world around us

## DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH VISION

### Part 1 – Seeing God Clearly

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#### A. THE QUEST FOR A VISION

##### 1. The Need For Defining Vision And Purpose

- Every local church needs to know what their God-given reason for existence is, and what they are supposed to be doing

##### 2. Four Important Questions

- Who are we? – A common identity
- Why are we here? – A common mission
- What are we to do? – A common vision
- How are we to do it? – A common set of values

#### B. WHERE DO WE START?

##### 1. Start By Answering The Identity Question

- Often we start our quest for vision by asking the question, “What should we be doing?”, but we should really start our quest for vision by asking the question, “Who are we?”

##### 2. Who Are We?

- a) We Are A People Belonging To God - 1 Peter 2:9, NIV – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”
- b) We Are A People With A Separate Culture - 1 Peter 2:9, NIV – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.”
- c) We Are A People With A Unique Constitution - 2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB – “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
- d) We Are A People With A Divine Nature - Genesis 1:26-27, NIV – “Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ... And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.'”

- To accurately answer the question, “Who Are We?”, we must address the reality, and clearly understand the implications, that we are created in the image of God

## B. UNDERSTANDING VISION

### 1. What Is “Vision?”

Proverbs 29:18, KJV – “Where there is no vision, the people perish [cast off restraint] ...”

- In the Bible, the word “vision” always first and foremost refers to “seeing” -- it refers to “seeing correctly, perceiving correctly, having a correct revelation”

### 2. We Need To Have A Correct Vision Of God

- If we are “like” God, then to answer the question “Who Are We?”, we must have a clear vision, or a correct perception, or a correct understanding of who God is.

## UNDERSTANDING IDENTITY AND MISSION THROUGH UNDERSTANDING GOD

- God has always “communed together” as one God – they have always lived together in a “common union”
- One day, He created mankind and invited us to enter into that “common union” relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

### 1. Appreciation / Worship

- When God loves up Himself, it’s called appreciation
- When we love up on God, it’s called ... worship!
- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is worship, loving up on God

### 2. Trinity (Communions) / Community (Fellowship)

- When God exists in union with Himself, it’s called existing as a Trinity
- When we exist in union with God, and then with others in the body of Christ, it’s called ... fellowship (or communion, or community)!

- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is fellowship – living in common union with others

### 3. Revelation / Discipleship

- When God shares information with Himself, it’s called divine revelation
- When God shares His revelation with us, and asks us to share it with others in the body of Christ, it’s called ... discipleship!
- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is discipleship, sharing God’s revelation with others

### 4. Serving / Ministry

- When one of the Godhead serves another of the Godhead, it is called serving
- When God invites us to share in that serving, and to serve others in the body of Christ, it’s called ... ministry!
- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is ministry, serving others

### 5. Relationship / Evangelism

- When the Godhead lives in relationship with Himself, it’s simply called relationship
- When God invites us to enter into relationship with Him, and we invite others to enter into relationship with God, it’s called ... evangelism!

- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is evangelism, inviting others to enter into relationship with God

### 6. Communication / Prayer

- When the Godhead communicates within itself, it is simply called communication
- When God invites us, and others, to communicate with Him, it’s called ... prayer!
- Since we are in the image of God, part of our mission is prayer, communicating with God