

The Word Goes Forth

Pastor Tim Peterson's Blog

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Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ

What a perfect mission statement! As I have said many times, this was a strong part of what opened my heart to begin to pray about coming to Broken Bow EFree church. Since being here I have so appreciated everyone who is eager for and anchored in the Word.

The mission statement describes why we exist and our purpose for the Kingdom. I want to introduce four core values which describe how to live out our mission. When you read these core values they may seem pretty obvious. And you will be right. They are obvious but necessary in defining how we live out the mission to which Christ has called us. The four core values describe *who we are and are striving to become*. They are the foundation of all our ministries, and drive our mission. We are praying that these deeply held values would intersect every aspect of our lives together.

The first core value is the **Word**. In other words...“where stands it written” should be a common phrase when deciding anything. We are a community desiring to live according to the inspired Word of God where the search for truth is approached with grace and love. We believe that the ancient narratives, letters and poems in the Bible are true. We affirm that the central truths of the historic Christian faith are true and simultaneously seek to engage rationally with the cultural challenges raised by living in a complex world. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:6; John 17:17; 18:37; 1 John 3:18; Philippians 4:5)

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. Jesus told us specifically we are to wash every person through the Word of God. We know that His Word is under attack. We are to never shrink back from living through the Word of God. We will encounter many who would like to tear a page out of the Bible because it causes discomfort. In grace and love we are to gently point them to Him and His Word.

2 Peter 1:19-21 reads, “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” We can take great confidence in His Word. The Bible has its source in God, and for that reason we can confidently say, “God says!” This is the way Jesus treated the Scriptures in His day. Matthew 4:4 Jesus says it is written. In fact Jesus tells us two more times when faced with temptation, “it is written.”

When our youngest was eleven Sherri asked him what it meant that Jesus was the Lord of his life. He thought for a minute then said “well, Jesus gets to tell us how to live.” Great answer! I love my son's answer. The means in which our Lord tells us how to live is His Word. Remember, you are not reading the Word, the Word is reading you. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word judges the attitude of the heart.

It is a Joy serving with you! Tim