

Is Our God Enough?
Vision Series
“Why CrossPoint Is Here?”
Matthew 22:37-40 & Matthew 28:18-20
February 3, 2019
Week 1 of 4

Welcome and intro to the series...

We're kicking off a new series of messages that will meant to get all of us on the same page with the mission, vision and core values of CrossPoint Church. As a church we have been called to some pretty specific things that God wants us to accomplish inside this building and outside in the community and the world. So, we thought it would be good to talk about the mission, vision and core values of CrossPoint for all of us to hear. These are the three things that God has said that CrossPoint Church is supposed to focus on. While there are tons of things a church can do...we believe God has told us to zoom in on these things and to do these things as best we can.

In the early 20 century a guy named Henry Ford started a little company that you may have heard of. Ford began making cars in 1896. By 1903 the Ford Motor Company was up and running and in 1908 Ford introduced the Model T. This mass produced, inexpensive car changed America forever. In 1913, out of necessity, Henry Ford had to figure out how to produce the Model T faster and cheaper. Since necessity is the mother of invention...the integrated moving assembly line was created, and manufacturing changed forever. Ford's mission was to create cars. Over the years, the vision was to create an inexpensive car that was easy to buy, drive and own...oh, and it came in any color you wanted, as long as it was black. Core values like safety, reasonable price, reliability, durability, and fair pay for workers made Ford stand head and shoulders above everyone else in the business. Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company were driven by a mission, a vision, and a set of values. They may not have been written down but, they were foundational to the success of Ford.

You have them too...we all have a mission, a vision and core values that are foundational to our everyday lives. What's important is making sure that the mission, vision and values you have line up with what you're trying to achieve and who you truly are. The question we all need to ask is:

Does our mission, vision and core values line up with what God wants.

Your mission may be just to exist. Not very exciting but, that could be it. A mission for some of us is to live life to the fullest each and every day. Now that sounds like it could get exciting, right. The vision might be to someday own a house, be married and have children. A personal vision might include becoming self-sustaining, self-supporting, and self-sufficient. Those are all good goals. Our personal core values might be things like: I will not cheat or steal or harm others to achieve my vision, I will work hard, I will take care of my physical body, I will allow God to direct my life, and I will give everything I have to the people and things I love. Does that make sense? Good...let's move on then.

OUR MISSION at CrossPoint Church

The mission, vision and core values of CrossPoint Church guide us - in the very same way Henry Ford's mission/vision/core values gave guidance to the Ford Motor Works, and your personal mission, vision and core values guide you. So, let's dive into these three and start looking at what God can do with a group of people who are focused and committed to why they exist, who they are, and what they are supposed to accomplish.

First, **our mission reminds us why we're here**, in effect - why CrossPoint Church exists.

A mission, whether personal or corporate, is something that is consistent and constant and that rarely ever changes. It is who God calls us to be. The mission of any organization is the "why" of their existence. The mission of CrossPoint Church is the reason we exist...it's why we are here. Our mission statement comes from the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22:37-40 and the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20 that you heard read earlier. For all of us here at CrossPoint Church, we believe that the reason we are here is to Love God fully and completely, love each Other as best as we possibly can, and to help other people become fully devoted followers of Jesus or what has been called - for thousands of years - "disciples." The main points of our mission says we are here to do these things...*love God, love others and make disciples*. And while there are lots of reasons why a church exists...this is ours. It's not the church down

the street, it's not all churches. It's our why. We are here to love and help other people to feel and know and experience that love. Sound good. Okay, let's move on.

OUR VISION at CrossPoint Church

If that's what a mission is...then what's a vision? **A vision is "what" the mission looks like if it is lived out** in focused and specific ways.

From time to time God gives individuals and/or a community a specific picture of what God wants the future to look like. So, let's be clear, the vision is not the mission...the vision is what the mission can look like if we live it out. If we *love God, love others and make disciples* we will be a place that matters to families, our community and the world. That's what God has asked us to do and that's what we believe our church can look like as we look forward into the future.

Unlike missions that don't change, visions have time stamps on them. They can be as short as the near future or as far out as, say, 20 years or more. A vision is a picture of God's preferred future and that's exactly what our vision has called us to. Here's God's vision for us that we believe can happen by the year 2020: ***A family first church that supports, loves, and equips families and communities (to LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS AND MAKE DISCIPLES) here and around the world.*** That people feel like they have a place where they are a part of the family, that the community knows about God's love for them and that people around the world learn how they can become disciples. That's our vision, that's what we're about, that's the "what" of CrossPoint Church. It's taking the mission and giving it skin...stating clearly what it looks like to love God, loving others and making disciples.

OUR CORE VALUES

Core values are the things that we do that are unique to CrossPoint and that identify us as CrossPoint Church. **Core values are the "who we are and how we function" statements** that help us understand the boundaries, the wins, and the places where we will not compromise.

Last September, the CrossPoint Leadership Council got together for an overnight retreat where we looked at our mission, our vision and our core values. The Council was challenged to define what makes CrossPoint what it is and are the unswerving aspects of our church. The Leadership Council settled in on the five core values. These five are the things we believe are the things we do. And while a church can't do everything...we can do these things. These are not for every church, they are for CrossPoint Church. They are a part of our DNA so to speak, if that makes sense. Okay, here they are: **Worship, Community, Preaching & Teaching Scripture, World Missions, and Innovative.**

Let's look at what each one of those means for us. The first one is **worship**. We believe that if we're going to love God then we need to show God that love. Traditionally, a worship on a Sunday morning has been the way people have done that. As a part of that tradition we believe that worshipping together each week is just something we do. We also believe that we should do it as best as we possibly can. We put a great deal of resources into each weekend worship experience because we believe that worship is one of the primary things we are supposed to be about. Because of that we have a full-time worship pastor position. Because of that we have space at each of our campuses called worship centers. Because of the importance of worship, we ask that everyone worship each week. If you're in town we believe you should be worshipping with your church family.

Because of those beliefs our worship is something that we've become known for. People come to CrossPoint Church to learn how to make great worship happen. We also know that it means that our worship pastors and our media people are top notch and that sometimes they get hired to go do bigger things in the Kingdom of God. We're going to celebrate that even though it's painful when people leave us.

Okay, the next core value is that we are a **community** church. We not only strive to create community inside our walls, we are active in the community around our campuses. We believe that people are called to be a part of a vibrant faith community. That's why we want everyone to be a part of what we call a LifeGroup...a small group of people who meet on a regular basis to talk about life and faith. Groups meet every week or every other week because they don't want too much time to pass in between their conversations. Groups meet on Sunday mornings, week day evenings, for breakfast, at church and in homes...they're all over the place. We're hoping that if you're not in a group that you'll join one or start

one. You can check out the LifeGroups board to see what groups are already meeting or you can use the weekly devotional that we put in the program and start a group that walks through the info we print.

We also believe that community happens outside the walls. That's why we're involved in doing work right in the neighborhoods right around us. Each campus is involved in their local elementary school, we offer a clothing and food bank, we have a home repair ministry...the opportunities are endless. The communities around our campuses should be different because we exist...amen.

Okay, let's move on to the next core value...**preaching and teaching**. While this is deeply connected to the worship core value, there is something specific about who we are that is being communicated so, it stands as its own core value. The preaching and teaching ministries of CrossPoint are a super important part of the journey every believer is on with Jesus. Being a lifelong learner and wanting to know more about who Jesus is and what it looks like to follow him is vital to our personal and spiritual growth. Each week we provide a message and teaching that helps us grow in our faith. On a regular basis we provide classes like ALPHA that help new believers get started in a judgement free zone. Several times a year we provide classes that help new people understand who CrossPoint Church is and how they can become members. We offer other classes on Spiritual Gifts, Financial stability (next Sunday at 2:00 at the Colonial Park campus), life planning (March 3rd at 2:00 at the Colonial Park campus), - not to mention seasonal Bible studies that meet weekly. Each LifeGroup that meets is challenged to be in a learning mode. And every staff member is gifted in teaching the Bible and its life changing messages. Preaching and teaching is what we do every week.

The fourth core value is **world missions**. We are uncompromisingly steadfast about needing to reach people around the world with the message of Jesus Christ and the salvation he offers all of us. From our work in Sierra Leone that you will hear more about on February 24th as we talk about being a missional church. To Todd and Mary Beth Saurman, the missionaries we support in South East Asia. They are ethnomusicologist with Wycliff Bible Institute. We are currently looking at supporting the Jesus Film project through Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) because of its connection to the people of Sierra Leone. We have had people do mission work in many places in the world and one of the unique aspects here is that we have a staff member who runs an orphanage and medical clinic in Haiti as a missional outreach. Reaching out around the world is something God has called us to and if you've never considered taking a mission trip but, today you've felt the nudge...we can make that happen. There is a meeting for the fall 2019 Sierra Leone trip coming up on March 3rd at 6:00 pm right in this room. Please plan to attend.

Our fifth core value is **innovation**. Not long ago I was sitting with a group of UM pastors as an all day gathering. During the lunch hour we got talking about the things that were happening at the churches where each pastor was serving. At one point one of the pastors stopped and said...you know what I love about CrossPoint Church...you guys aren't afraid to try doing the things the rest of us know we ought to be doing. This core value speaks to the risk-taking DNA that is a part of a congregation that started in 1924. That took a risk on a piece of land in 1958 when there was nothing around. That started a church in a housing development to bring the church to people right where they lived (CPR). We've tried some things that haven't worked...that's what happens when you innovate...not everything works. Talk to Thomas Edison or Alexander Graham Bell or Henry Ford. CrossPoint has never been satisfied with the status quo. We've never been satisfied with doing just enough. We have tried and succeeded at many different ministries and we've sent out many leaders...why, because the church needs innovators. And I for one am proud to be a part of a risk-taking bunch of Jesus followers!

Next week we're going to dive a whole lot deeper into our vision and explain how each vision area works and how you can be involved. Until then let me ask you...how are you going to live out these core values? How are you going to make them a part of your life, your family, your faith and your future?