

The Mission of the Church

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I. Introduction

A. Mark 1:14–15 (NIV) ¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

1. The kingdom of God is creation completely under the rule of God.
2. Our mission is to transform ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Christ.

II. How Do We Accomplish this Mission?

A. We desire to live in biblical community. We are a community.

1. Romans 12:4–5 (NIV) ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
2. A commitment to Christ is a commitment to His church.

B. The second key activity is that we would grow in maturity and are disciples.

1. Romans 8:29 (NLT) *For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*
2. Malachi 3:2–3 (NIV) ²But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

C. We need to meet God daily. Transformation happens when we experience God.

1. Romans 5:5 (NASB) *And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

D. We desire to love one another and minister to each other.

1. Matthew 22:35–40 (NLT) ³⁵One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" ³⁷Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

E. We partner with Christ to heal the world.

1. We want to be a fully-orbed expression of the Kingdom of God here at Vineyard Church North Phoenix.

III. Conclusion