

LET'S KEEP GROWING "It's Time to Grow Up" Part 2

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

"WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT COMMANDMENT AND THE GREAT COMMISSION WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!"

The Great Commandment: "Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart...soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matt. 22:36-40

The Great Commission: "Jesus said, 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20

- To "Love God with all your heart" is "**WORSHIP**".
- To "Love your neighbor as yourself" is "**MINISTRY**".
- To "Go...make disciples" is "**EVANGELISM**".
- To "Baptize..." is "**INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP**".
- To "Teach them...all things" is "**DISCIPLESHIP**".

WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: The definition of evangelism is "sharing the good news".

"His intent was that through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."
Eph. 3:10

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?" Rom. 10:13-14 (LB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because God loves people.

"The Lord...is patient, **not wanting anyone to perish**, but wants everyone to come to repentance."
2 Pet. 3:9

2 Cor. 5:14, Luke 15:3-10, Matt. 9:12-13

2. Because God commands us to reach out.

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, **so that My House will be full.**"
Luke 14:23 (LB) "...you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8

3. Because it's His will that His church grows.

*“Under Christ’s control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as **God wants it to grow.**”*
Col. 2:19 (GN)

“(Jesus) I will build my church.” Matt. 16:18

Unbiblical Excuses For Not Growing:

- *“God isn’t interested in numbers.”*
- *“Our church wants quality not quantity.”*
- *“Large churches are impersonal”*

We believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

*“And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **THEN** the end will come.”* Matt. 24:14