

We are the Church

Part 1-Passion for God

Matthew 22:34-40

Our church mission statement is... (show slide)

“Passion for God, Compassion for People, Refashioned Lives.”

This is based on an account from Matthew 22...

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:34-40 NIV

Jesus quoted from 2 Old Testament passages...

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV

...but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:18 NIV

Jesus summed up the purpose of the church and God’s people as LOVE _____, LOVE _____.

Today we will focus on LOVE GOD part of our mission statement: “Passion for God.”

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV

Two Important Truths...

1. We must be a _____-_____ follower of Jesus Christ to develop a passion for God.

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ...For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:3,16 NIV

2. The Holy Spirit living inside you will _____ your desire to grow in your passion for God.

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 1 Corinthians 6:19 NIV

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you... But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:15-17, 26 NIV

4 Ways to Develop Our Passion for God...

1. _____ daily alone with God.

Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on His law day and night. Psalm 1:1-2 NIV

...pray continually... 1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV

"... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:2 NIV

2. _____ faithfully and obediently to God's commands.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 NIV

3. _____ Christ according to your God-given giftedness.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV

4. _____ the hope of Christ with others.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16 NIV

Therefore 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

Key point: As we develop our _____ for God, we will see lives _____, both ours and others.

For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...

Romans 8:39 NIV

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

How passionate are you for God?

How do you need to adjust your life to better develop your passion for God?

