



TRINITY CHURCH

WAYZATA

Engage TCW
Membership Course

God's Vision for the World

- Sociologists have identified the fact that virtually every culture, throughout all time, and all places, have created or adopted some sort of story to answer **three fundamental questions**.
 1. Why are we here?
 2. What went wrong?
 3. How will things be made right?
- God's word answers these questions for us



Why are we here?

- WSC Q1: What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

- 50 references to God's glory (there are hundreds)
 - Ex. 14:4, Ex. 33:18-19, Ex. 40:34-35, Lev. 9:23, Num. 14:21, Deut. 5:24, 1 Kgs. 8:10-11, 2 Chr. 5:13-14, Ps. 8:1, Ps. 19:1, Ps. 24:7-10, Ps. 29:1-2, Ps. 57:5, Ps. 57:11, Ps. 72:19, Ps. 96:3, Ps. 102:15, Ps. 115:1, Isa. 6:3, Isa. 35:2, Isa. 40:5, Isa. 42:8, Isa. 43:7, Isa. 48:11, Isa. 60:1-2, Hab. 2:14, Matt. 5:16, Jn. 1:14, Jn. 11:4, Jn. 17:1, Jn. 17:4-5, Jn. 17:22, Rom. 3:23, Rom. 5:2, Rom. 8:18, Rom. 11:36, 1 Cor. 6:20, 1 Cor. 10:31, 2 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 4:6, Gal. 1:5, Eph. 1:6, Eph. 1:12, Eph. 1:14, Phil. 2:11, Phil. 4:20, Col. 1:27, Heb. 1:3, 1 Pet. 4:11, Rev. 4:11, Rev. 21:23



What went wrong?

- Mankind fell into an estate of sin & misery
 - Rom. 1:21-23 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
- In the garden, humanity exchanged the glory of God for the “glory” of created things, which are not capable of giving us the fulfillment and joy were designed to experience. And, in so doing, we became sinners who deserve God’s judgment.

(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Psalm 14:2-3; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 1:18)



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How will things be made right?

- God, in Christ, is making His **glory** known again by bringing His **kingdom** through the **Church** by the power of the **gospel**.



God's Glory

- God, in Christ, is **making His glory known** again by bringing His kingdom through the Church by the power of the gospel.
 - Matt. 6:9 Pray like this: “Our Father in heaven, **hallowed** be your name...”
 - Ps. 86:9 “All the nations you have made...shall **glorify** your name.”
 - Hab. 2:14 “the earth...filled with the knowledge of the **glory** of the Lord...”
 - Rom. 15:9 ...in order that the Gentiles might **glorify** God for his mercy.
- *Whenever and wherever God is glorified, humanity flourishes.*



God's Kingdom

- God, in Christ, is making His glory known again **by bringing His kingdom** through the Church by the power of the gospel.
 - Matt. 6:10 Your *kingdom* come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven (see also 9:35).
 - Mark 1:14-15 ...Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the *kingdom* of God is at hand..."
 - Humanity's rebellion against God's righteous rule (*kingdom*) has produced every cause of sadness and suffering: injustice, poverty, hunger, materialism, racism, oppression...
 - *When God's kingdom (rule) comes, wrongs are made right, evil is overcome, earth becomes more like heaven ("on earth as it is in heaven").*
 - "God's kingdom is where God's will is done." Sally Lloyd-jones

God's Church

- God, in Christ, is making His glory known again by bringing His kingdom **through the Church** by the power of the gospel.
 - Matt. 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread... (that us, the church!)
 - WCF 25.2 The visible **church**, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the *kingdom* of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.
 - Jesus: “I will build my *church*...” (Matt. 16:18)
 - Paul: the God's wisdom is made known “through the *church*” (Eph. 3:10)
 - Acts 14:21-24 shows the pattern of establishing new churches

Acts 14:21-23

When they had **preached the gospel** to that city and had **made many disciples**, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had **appointed elders** for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they **committed them to the Lord** in whom they had believed. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.

Church Planting Steps in the NT

1. Preach the gospel
2. Make disciples
3. Appoint/elect leaders
4. Commit them to the Lord
5. Move on to the next place that doesn't have a church

God's Gospel

- God, in Christ, is making His glory known again by bringing His kingdom through the Church **by the power of the gospel.**
 - “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the Kingdom and the **power** and the glory forever. Amen”
 - Acts 1:8 But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for **it is the power** of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
 - Col. 1:5-6 “...the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world **it is bearing fruit** and increasing...”

- “The **gospel** of God must be our primary source of **empowerment** as we seek to glorify God and advance his Kingdom through his church among all nations.” --Dr. Steven L. Childers
- **1) A new Record: freedom from the **penalty** of sin**
 - 2 Cor. 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- **2) A new Heart: freedom from the **power** of sin**
 - Eze. 36:26 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
 - 2 Cor 3:18 18 And we...are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- **3) A new World: freedom from the **presence** of sin**
 - Rev. 21:1-4 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.2 ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man... 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Membership Questions

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a **sinner** in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope [except for] His sovereign mercy?
 - Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, rebelling against him by living without reference to him, not being or doing what he requires in his law—resulting in our death and the disintegration of all creation. (NCC #16)
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in **the Gospel**?

3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the **Holy Spirit**, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?

The Holy Spirit

- He empowers us to be born again John 3:8
- He empowers us to believe God is our Father Rom. 8:15
- He empowers us to believe Jesus is Lord 1 Cor. 12:3
- He empowers us to grow spiritually 2 Cor. 3:18
- He empowers us to understand Scripture 1 Cor. 2:12
- He empowers us to turn away from sin Gal. 5:16
- He empowers our gospel presentations 1 Cor. 2:4-5
- He empowers us for unity Phil. 2:1-2

4. Do you promise to support the Church in its **worship** and **work** to the best of your ability?

- People who attend church (**worship**) regularly...
 - Experience a higher quality of life
 - Have healthier/stronger marriages
 - Have lower rates of anxiety and depression
 - Are less likely to struggle with alcoholism
 - Have a stronger emotional support network
 - Have better family or step-family functioning
 - Invest more time volunteering.
- Everyone can serve (**work**):
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12)

5. Do you submit yourself to the **government** and **discipline** of the Church, and promise to study (promote) its **purity and peace**?

- **Government**

- Jesus is King (Matt. 28:18-20); He is building His Church (16:18)
- He shepherds and rules through officers:
 - Ruling & Teaching Elders (1 Tim. 5:17) & Deacons (Acts 6)
 - Given to the church (Eph. 4:7-12); Elected by the people: Acts 6; 14:23

- **Discipline**

If a member lives contrary to their vows, the Elders will lovingly call them to repentance, progressing from admonition to suspension and, if needed, excommunication—all for restoration. (Heb. 12:11)

- **Purity and Peace**

- Titus 3:10-11 As for a person who stirs up **division**, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.
 - See also Rom 16:17-18, 1 Cor 1:10, Gal 5:19-21, Eph 4:2-3, Jas 3:16-17



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