

Going Deeper - PURPOSE

Saanich Baptist Church
February 4th, 2024

A Christian/Disciple is someone who finds their identity, purpose and belonging in God's design.

Discipleship is: Spiritual formation that seeks to discern the wisdom necessary to influence the cultural setting in which Christians find themselves.

Wisdom: Believing everything God asks of you is good, right and true, in every situation, relationship and location.

DESIGN – Missio Dei

Gen.1:28, God blessed them and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it.”

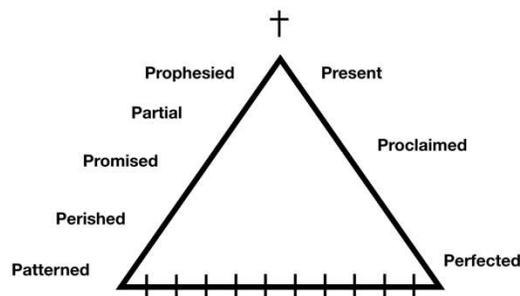
- **Fruitful** - God's purpose was for humanity to POPULATE.
- **Multiply** - God's purpose was humanity PROCREATE.
- **Fill** - God's purpose was to humanity SATURATE.
- **Subdue** - God's purpose was to humanity MANIPULATE.

God's purpose is TRANSCENDENT:

- Transcends Time – Eternal
- Transcends Space – Contextualized
- Transcends Physical – Spiritualized

The BIBLE is the Plan of God – It shapes our individual and corporate purpose.

A KINGDOM Story:



As Christians who see time as a gift from God, we must see ourselves as people who inhabit a particular place and occupy a specific time for a purpose. - **Trevin Wax, Eschatological Discipleship**

Worldview: “Who are we?” “Where are we?” “What is wrong?” “What is the solution?” “**What time is it?**”

Q: Where has God uniquely placed you for His purposes?

Distortion – Up not Out

Genesis 11:2-4 CSB, [2] As people migrated from the east, a they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. [3] They said to each other, "Come, let's make oven-fired bricks." (They used brick for stone and asphalt for mortar.) [4] And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth."

- **Static** – Refused movement
- **Greedy** – Innovation for self-glorification
- **City** – Unique culture and tribal identity

Today there are many who believe technology will solve our problems. But while science and technology can tell you what can be done and how to do it in the most efficient way, they cannot tell you whether or not you should do it. – Tim Keller

Genesis 11:7-8 CSB, [7] Come, let's go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech." [8] So from there the LORD scattered them throughout the earth, and they stopped building the city.

- **Scattered** - God's purpose fulfilled.
- **Confused** - Humanity's limitations exposed.

Irreligion – SYNCRETICISM

- Cultural values that reject the glory and purpose of God, in the name of self-actualization while adhering to tribal values.

Religion – SECTARIANISM

- A subculture that values distinctiveness from broader culture, defined and defended by common creed.

Q: How have you experienced the pull of syncretism or sectarianism?

REDEMPTION – The Gospel Separates History

The crucifixion is a moment of time that tears history in two and gives it "meaning, a direction that it never had before."

"The resurrection cannot be accommodated in any way of understanding the world except one of which it is the starting point."

Who was Jesus? Sent & Sending

What did Jesus do? Seek and save the lost. Sent the Spirit to empower the church.

God is a missionary God.

1. Jesus was sent.
2. Jesus was sending.
3. The Holy Spirit was sent.
4. The Holy Spirit empowers mission.
5. The Church is Sent
6. The Church is Sending

Acts 2:4-6 CSB

[4] Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. [5] Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. [6] When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

Acts 2:32-33 CSB

[32] "God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this. [33] Therefore, since he has been exalted to the right hand of God and has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit, he has poured out what you both see and hear.

Declare & Demonstrate: Disciples are WITNESSES to a God who has done something in history, in this space-time universe, and who is moving all of humanity and the world to the ultimate fulfillment of his purposes.

Acts 2:37-38 CSB

[37] When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" [38] Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

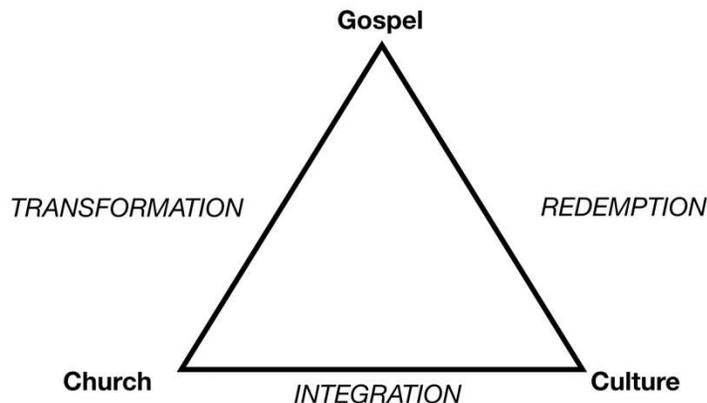
Acts 2:47b, every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Philippians 2:9-11 CSB

[9] For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow- in heaven and on earth and under the earth- [11] and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The gospel reconciles SYNCRETICISM: *John 17:15-16 CSB, [15] I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

The gospel removes SECTARIANISM: *1 John 4:4, You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*



Christian WISDOM in CULTURE

- Reject – That which is overtly evil and destructive.
- Receive – That which is good and able to bless.
- Redeem – Take opportunities to use cultural language or narratives to declare or demonstrate Christ.

Christian DISCERNMENT of CULTURE:

- Irreligion - What is the language/values of our culture?
- Religion – What are the idols of our culture?

Q: What cultural values or religious ideology have you been seen in our city?

Renewal of Purpose – Movement in the Spirit

Called - Ephesians 4:4 CSB [4] There is one body and one Spirit-just as you were called to one hope at your calling-

Gifted - Hebrews 2:4 CSB, [4] At the same time, God also testified by signs and wonders, various miracles, and distributions of gifts from the Holy Spirit according to his will.

Empowered - Ephesians 3:16 CSB, [16] I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit.

Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Q: How has God uniquely resourced (called/gifted/empowered) you for His purposes?

1 Peter 3:14-15 CSB, [14] ... even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them or be intimidated, [15] but in a hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.

- **Identify** – Who's your one?
- **Involve** – What's their story?
- **Invite** – When's the time?

HOPE – Living a Better Story

- **Prayer** - As antidote for hopelessness
- **Bible** - Reminder of God's plan for the redemption of the world
- **Church** - As sent & sending, equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.

True: The church has a mission. **Truer:** The mission has a Church.

Q: How is your peace in the Spirit and corresponding hope?

At a TABLE this week:

- Where have you seen Christ working around you?
- When were you tempted to to withdraw from the world or become like the world?
- How is your peace in the Spirit and corresponding hope?