

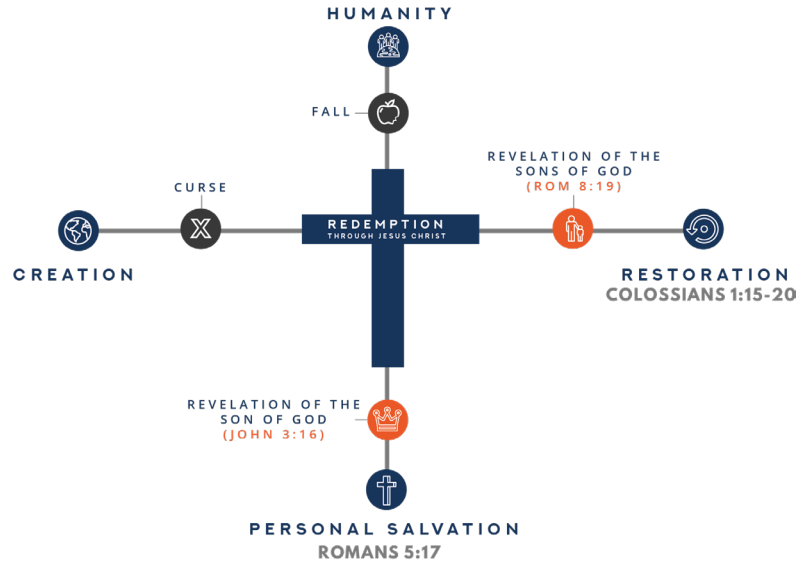
MISSIONAL FRAMEWORK

THEOLOGY: UNDERSTANDING THE DEPTH AND THE BREATH OF THE GOSPEL.

Col 1:13-14 & 19-20

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



Agencies of the Mission:

- Missional Community - CHURCH
- Missional Individuals - CITY CHANGER
- Missional Eco- System - CITY



Missional Community - CHURCH

Eph 1:22-23 Message

*At the center of all this, Christ rules the church.
The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world;
the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body,*

***IN** which he speaks and acts,*

***BY** which he fills everything with his presence*

'Ekklesia', We need to understand its context and implications for today's Church

Jesus is typically quoted to say, *Matt 16:18, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it"*

In this passage, the translation of the word 'church' is "Ekklesia". This is significant because 'Ekklesia' was a concept predating Jesus' birth by hundreds of years.

The 'Ekklesia' originated in Greece as a governing assembly, but it was perfected by the Roman Empire. When Rome would conquer a territory, they would establish permanent influence or 'win the peace' (Pax Romana) by sending out what they called an 'Ekklesia' – a small number of upstanding Roman citizens, who would move in with the locals, assuming positions of influence, orientating and acculturating them in the language and lifestyle of Rome, until everyone around them walked and talked like a Roman.

It's striking that in Matthew 16:18, Jesus did NOT say, "I will build my synagogue" or "I will build my Temple", although He loved them both. Jesus said *"I will build my 'Ekklesia' – a small number of fully devoted followers who will infiltrate the culture around them for Christ, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* Hades - It has been thought by some that the word etymologically meant "the unseen" (from a, negative, and eido, "to see")

This was a brilliant strategy on Jesus' part. He was co-opting a familiar Roman concept and infusing it with Kingdom DNA. The Early Church executed this strategy with excellence, and its spiritual influence was soon to reach across the Roman Empire – and beyond.

Centuries later, we harness the insights of 'Ekklesia' into a 21st Century expression for impact in today's world. We pursue "ministry" to focus on operating as a spiritual network of influence throughout an entire city. Taking **Faith, Hope and Love** to our communities. A healthy church creates a safe place for healing, restoration, and empowerment for mission. It becomes a family on mission. These Churches encourage a relational dynamic that extends beyond the Sunday meeting event, where friendship, care, and mission are accomplished between – not just in – meetings. Church gatherings are to prepare people for cultural impact – serving the city, taking love to the disadvantaged, addressing that which is broken and engaging relativism with loving truth. Whereas our normal church experience unconsciously calls us out of the world and creates an inward or self-oriented form of faith, a missional community is exactly the opposite, connecting Sunday's faith with Monday's life.

NB: The Church does not have a mission - The Mission has a Church.

MEM Strategy - Mobilizing / Engaging / Modeling

Missional Individuals - CITY CHANGER

Every disciple is to be an agent of the kingdom of God, and every disciple is to carry the mission of God into every sphere of life. We are all missionaries sent into a non-Christian culture. Every church should consider the following 2 dimensions of discipleship:

FRAMEWORK | Defining the outcomes

Incarnate the Good News (*Knowing God*)

Living beyond yourself – Giving and Serving (*Loving People*)

Pursuing wholeness in the Community (*Impacting your World*)

FORMAT | Disciples are developed:

1. through life on life, where there is visibility and accessibility,
2. in community, where they can practice the 'one another's',
3. on mission where they learn how to proclaim the gospel and establish Kingdom influence being a faithful and fruitful Christian presence.

Missional Eco-System - CITY

No one church or ministry, no matter how large, can make a dent in the lostness, pain, and brokenness of a city or a region on their own. We need to come into Unity and do mission together. This is not just shared activity but shared goals or **outcomes**. Defining shared outcomes empowers collaborative action by the churches in communities. Each role player can determine their contributions and activities within the framework of their own unique contribution, all working together to achieve the same outcome.

Establish a process, in which we can facilitate engagement between churches and ministries on three levels, represented by the terms **connect, collaborate, and celebrate**.

CONNECT — creating unity — facilitate opportunities for leaders to discover, dialogue, and do life and outreach together.

COLLABORATE — catalyzing action — identify spiritual, social, and cultural goals that can be reached more effectively together.

CELEBRATE — cultivating transformation — measure the positive outcomes of these efforts on the culture and the region

GREAT COMMISSION "Go"
Missional INDIVIDUAL | Matthew 28:19

GREAT COMMANDMENT "Love"
Missional COMMUNITY | Mark 12

GREAT COLLABORATION "Together"
Missional ECOSYSTEM | John 17

GO ... IN LOVE ... TOGETHER!