

# THE MASTER'S PLAN FOR THE CHURCH

## REASONS WE MUST POSSESS A DEEP LOVE FOR THE CHURCH

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- Those who ought to lead the charge to love and cherish the bride of Christ are the men of the church since how the men go the church goes
- Our hope is that the men of MBC would be churchmen...men who really love the church...men who don't just see church as a box to check once a week
- Unfortunately, often men become indifferent to the church...passive toward it...uninvolved...even apathetic
- In some cases, they even become hostile to the church, because they have become disillusioned and disenchanted with it
- They step away from it, believing that they can have a more satisfying Christian life apart from it
- "These days, spirituality is hot; religion is not. Community is hip, but the church is lame. Both inside the church and out, organized religion is seen as oppressive, irrelevant, and a waste of time. Outsiders like Jesus but not the church. Insiders have been told that they can do just fine with God apart from the church."<sup>1</sup>
- But to love Christ is to love His church
- No one who rejects or is indifferent toward the church truly loves Christ

### Because Christ Promised to Build It

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**Matthew 16:18** ~ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

- Christ didn't promise to build a program...or a movement...or an actual structure...but the church
- The word "church" (*ekklesia*) is from *ek* ("out") and *kaleo* ("to call")...meaning "a called out group"
- It is most often used in a technical sense of believers whom God has called out of the world as a special group of His own
- So the church is people....called out of sin...called out of darkness...called out of wrath...called into a relationship with God through Christ...called into a relationship with fellow believers
- This is a reference to the universal church...it refers to all Christians everywhere throughout history...all true believers from Pentecost to the Rapture
- This is sometimes referred to as the "invisible church" because it is comprised of believers who lived before us and will be comprised of believers who live after us
- And it is invisible because we cannot know for certain which of those baptized, professing members are inwardly regenerate and thus belong to the church as a spiritual fellowship of sinners loving their Savior

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck, *Why We Love the Church*, 12-13.

- Each local church is thus a visible manifestation of a portion of the universal church....that's why it is called the visible church
- The local church is a local group of professed believers, organized and meeting for the purposes outlined in the New Testament
- Each local church is a visible manifestation of the faithfulness of Christ to fulfill His promise here
- Each word of that phrase is important:
  - "I" – It is Christ who is responsible for the church...in fact, He is its head
  - "will" – Christ promised to establish a new community...something yet in the future...something certain
  - "build" – It needed to be constructed for the first time as it didn't exist prior to this
  - "My" – Christ Himself personally took it upon Himself to build His church...it is His idea and His work
  - "church" – It would be an assembly of God's people
- So certain was Christ's promise that He guaranteed it: v. 18 ~ and the gates of Hades will not overpower it
- Hades is the place where the spirits of dead believers go...so Hades refers to death
- Jesus' point is that even death, the ultimate weapon of Satan, has no power to stop the church
- For 2,000 years, Christ has been building His church as He promised
- If the church is close to Christ's heart, then it should be something we love as well
- His affection for His bride should garner our affection for it...His commitment to it should secure ours

### **Because Christ Loves It and Died to Purchase It**

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**Ephesians 5:25-27** ~ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

**Acts 20:28** ~ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood

**1 Peter 1:18** ~ knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ

- The price of something always shows its value
- Such is the case with the church...it was purchased at a great cost
- Christ loves the church so much that He willingly sacrificed Himself for it
- Christ gave everything He had, including His own life, for the sake of His church
- He was not merely forced to die at the hands of wicked people; rather, He willingly laid down his own life for the church
- Paul further states in Eph 5:26-27 that Christ's love for the church is not only sacrificial but sanctifying
- He died for the church to make her holy, to cleanse her, to purify her, and to present her as blameless
- Christ's love for the church cannot bear for it to be corrupted or misled by anything evil or harmful
- He gave up his life to purify for Himself a people who are pure and holy, characterized by moral purity
- Thus, the love of Christ for His bride ought to compel our love for it as well
- It must keep us from being flippant in our attitude toward something that was so costly
- It must prevent us from having a superficial commitment to the church
- It must guard us from becoming jaded or cynical about the church

- It must garner our affections for and devotion to His bride, one that manifests itself in a heart to serve it and labor for the sanctification of it

## **Because Christ is on Display Through It**

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**Ephesians 1:19-23** ~ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- The church is the visible manifestation of Christ in His absence
- Christ is head of the church...and as head, Christ directs the body
- He gives the church its life and its power since the body needs the Head for its coordination and unity
- In this sense, Christ is on display in the church since He is the one building and orchestrating it
- The church is meant to be a place where the will and power and the glory of Christ is made known
- Additionally, Ephesians 5:23 indicates that the church is “His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all”
- Paul means that Christ fills the church with His presence...with power, with blessings, with evidences of His persona and work
- Hence, Christ is visibly manifest in the church such that it is an earthly representation of who He is
- To see the church is to see what Christ is like
- Thus, it takes the fullness of the body to show us the fullness of Christ
- This means that it’s not just what God is doing through us privately...it’s about what God is doing through us corporately
- It takes the whole church to paint an accurate portrait of Christ
- It takes each believer committing themselves to the church, using their gifts, and fulfilling their piece of the puzzle which, when complete, gives us the full picture of Christ
- In the same way that a puzzle that is missing a piece is incomplete, the church that is missing believers who refuse to commit themselves to it is also incomplete

**Ephesians 2:19-22** ~ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

- Paul tells us that the church is a building comprised of individual believers whom God “fits together” (v. 21)
- In so doing, He fashions a whole building, a dwelling of God (v. 22)
- Thus, the best expression of Christ on the earth today is not just us individually...but us corporately
- Christ is put on display when we come together, when we serve, when we practice the one-anothers
- This happens by a commitment to one another through a local church!
- If Christ is on display in the church, then we should love it by wanting to do everything we can to make our church look great for the cause of Christ

## **Because Christ Ordained it for Our Spiritual Growth**

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**Ephesians 4:11-16** ~ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to

the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

- Paul describes in this passage an interdependence that promotes spiritual maturity
- There is a progression within this passage
- First, pastors and teachers are given to the church (v. 11)
- They are tasked with the responsibility of “equipping of the saints, to the building up of the body of Christ” (v. 12)
- Pastors are not to do all of the work...they are to help believers do the work of ministry
- This leads to the “the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (v. 13)
- When believers serve one another in the body, there is a spiritual maturity that results, an increasing growth in Christ-likeness
- That results in spiritual discernment which keeps believers from being “tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming” (v. 14)
- Such believers will be grounded in truth, not at the whim of a steady stream of doctrinal and philosophical fads that come and go
- This furthers the church’s spiritual growth: vv. 15-16 ~ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ 16 ~ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love
- The whole body grows together when every person does their part and when each part is working properly
- Every believer using their spiritual gift in the community of believers has a corporate sanctifying effect
- “working” = *energeia* = energy...there is power in the body of Christ to cause growth and maturity
- God has clearly designed that spiritual growth take place in the body of Christ
- All of this demonstrates why we must love the church
- Believers who fail to connect with the church will be stunted in their spiritual growth
- This demonstrates the danger of isolation from the church
- Just as a sick or wounded animal that is separated from its group is susceptible to attack, so too are believers who remain disconnected from the body
- Isolation is a serious threat to our spiritual growth
- It is one of those sins that can go undetected for a while and, before long, there is a sudden coldness and an unhealthy wall built up between an individual and their church family
- Isolation is the devil’s oldest trick in his black book of sinful temptations
- It kills community...it makes us vulnerable to Satan’s attacks...it opens us up for influence from the world, the flesh, and the devil...it creates a rogue attitude of independence that’s misguided and deceptively false...it prevents accountability...it creates loneliness and intensifies the burdens of life

# MBC PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

## OUR PREMISE

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Our premise is that the truths contained in Scripture need to drive all that we do in life and ministry. The following essential truths contained in Scripture comprise the most basic components which form the foundation upon which Maranatha Bible Church is built:

### **The Centrality of God**

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We believe that there is one true God (Deut 6:4; Is 45:5-7) who is supreme in all His nature and attributes. He is the creator of all things (Gen 1:1), has existed from all eternity (Ps 90:2), is sovereign over all (Ps 103:19), and continually directs, maintains and controls everything (1 Chron 29:11-12). God exists in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19). He consistently works all things after the counsel of His will (Eph 1:11) accomplishing what He has ordained in eternity past (Is 46:8-11) for the praise of His glory (Eph 1:6, 12, 14; Rom 11:36), even using the sin of men to accomplish His purposes (Gen 50:21). Because God is glorious (Ps 24:10) and majestic (Ps 8:1, 9), our premise at MBC is that He is worthy of worship (Ps 95:6), praise (Ps 150), and blessing (Ps 103:1, 2) and should be treasured (Ps 16:11) and delighted in (Ps 37:4) by all.

### **The Supremacy of Christ**

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We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son (John 3:16) and is the second Person of the Trinity (Matt 28:19). He is the creator (John 1:3; Heb 1:2) and sustainer (Col 1:17) of all things. He was born of a virgin (Is 7:14; Matt 1:23) and lived a sinless life as God incarnate (John 1:1,14). He died a substitutionary atoning death on the cross (Rom 5:8), rose again from the dead (Rom 1:4; Acts 2:24), and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9). He is the mediator between God and man who makes intercession for His people (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25). One day, He will return to gather the church for Himself at the rapture (1 Cor 15:51-52) and will personally return to the earth with His Church in glory (1 Thess 3:13; Jude 14-15) to establish His millennial kingdom and reign on the throne of David (Is 9:6; Luke 1:31-33). As such, Jesus Christ will be the final judge of all men (John 5:22-23; Acts 17:30-31). Because of the greatness of Christ, our premise at MBC is that we are to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Matt 22:37), seeking Him such that we might not be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (2 Cor 11:3).

### **The Sufficiency of the Holy Spirit**

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We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person (John 14:26; 16:13) who comprises the third member of the Trinity (Matt 3:16-17). He was instrumental in the creation of the world (Gen 1:2) and the inspiration of the Word of God (2 Pet 1:21). His ministry is to convict sinners of sin (John 16:8), regenerate the hearts of the elect (John 3:5; Titus 3:5), indwell believers (1 Cor 3:6), incorporate them into the body of Christ at conversion (1 Cor 12:13), and seal believers for a future inheritance (Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:22). He also fills believers for daily obedience (Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:18), teaches them God's truth (1 Cor 2:12), guides believers (Rom 8:14), prays for believers (Rom 8:26), and bestows believers with spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:7). Because of His work in salvation and sanctification, our premise at MBC is that the Holy Spirit is essential to our spiritual lives individually and the growth and equipping of the body of Christ corporately.

### **The Authority of the Word**

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We believe that the Bible is God's Word and that each word in it is fully inspired (2 Tim 3:16) and without error in the original (Ps 19:7-9; Is 30:8; Matt 5:18, John 10:35; 17:17). Each of the writers of the Bible was moved by the Holy Spirit and wrote the very words of God (2 Pet 1:20-21). As a result, the Word is alive (Heb 4:12), that which God uses to accomplish His purposes (Is 55:10-11), and what saves sinners (James 1:18; 1 Pet 1:23) and changes lives (2 Tim 3:17). The Word is completely sufficient for all of life and ministry (2 Pet 1:3) and is that which alone determines what to believe and how to live to the glory of God (Acts 17:11). It stands as absolute truth to be known and applied in every area of life. As such, Scripture is the very foundation upon which the church is built and comprises not only the content of the message that the church proclaims (2 Tim 4:2) but also the methods by which the church operates. Therefore, our premise at MBC is that, because God has spoken to us in the Bible, we aim, at every level, to allow His Word to inform our minds so we can know Him and enflame our hearts so we can worship Him.

## **The Depravity of Man**

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We believe that mankind was created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) on the sixth day of creation (Gen 2:7) and that in his original state he was innocent, without sin, and holy (Gen 1:27, 31; 2:25). Despite this design, however, man rationally and volitionally chose to rebel against his Creator (Gen 3:6-7) by disobeying God's specific instructions (Gen 2:16-17). This act of rebellion plunged the human race into sin and death (Rom 5:12) resulting in mankind's separation from God (Is 59:2). Because of Adam's sin, he passed down a sin nature to his progeny (Rom 5:17-19) that renders all men fallen sinners who naturally rebel against God's loving rule and authority in their life (Ps 14:1-3; Rom 3:10-12). All men (Rom 3:23) are born in sin (Ps 51:5) which causes them to be enslaved to their sin (Rom 6:17; Titus 3:3), spiritually blind (2 Cor 4:4), darkened in their understanding (Eph 4:18), alienated and hostile in mind (Col 1:21), and spiritually dead (Eph 2:1-3). The natural man is totally incapable of producing works to commend himself to God (Is 64:6). As a result, mankind is worthy of the wrath of God (Rom 1:18; 5:6; Col 3:6) and eternal death (Rom 6:23) and, therefore, hopelessly lost (Eph 2:12). Therefore, our premise at MBC is that each person needs to understand their desperate condition so that they can also participate in God's wonderful plan to save sinners from condemnation.

## **The Majesty of Salvation**

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We believe that, despite man's sinful condition, God demonstrated his great grace and love by sending His Son to be our substitute (Rom 5:8). Christ's death satisfied God's wrath against sin (1 Thess 1:10), made it possible for that sin to be removed (Col 1:21-22), and serves as the basis for Christ's righteousness being granted to believers (2 Cor 5:21). God lovingly offers salvation as a free gift (Rom 3:24) not on the basis of works (Rom 3:28; Eph 2:9; 2 Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5) to all (Matt 11:28-29). Before the foundation of the world, God chose those whom He would save from sin (Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:4-11; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:10). This choice was entirely unconditional (Rom 9:11; Eph 2:8-9) and designed to bring Him glory (Eph 1:5-6) as the One who graciously bestows mercy on whom He desires (Rom 9:14-24). Yet, the truth of election does not nullify man's responsibility to believe in Christ as Savior (John 3:16-18; 5:40) and to repent of their sins (Acts 2:38; 20:21; 26:20, 1 Thess 1:9). All those who submit themselves to the lordship of Christ and come to Him for salvation will be saved (Luke 6:46; John 3:36; Rom 10:9; Phil 2:9-11). In doing so, they become new creatures in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) who walk in newness of life (Rom 6:4) and are kept secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-44; 10:27-30; Rom 8:30-39). Therefore, our premise at MBC is that it is the kindness of God that leads to salvation (Rom 2:4) and we want all peoples to know the wonderful news about how to have their sins forgiven and possess eternal life.

## **The Primacy of the Church**

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We believe that the church is a living organism, distinct from Israel, and made up of true believers who offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Pet 2:5). Christ so loved the church that He died for her (Eph 5:25) in order that He might sanctify her and present her to Himself in all her glory, blameless and without spot or blemish (Eph 5:26-27). Because of this, Christ nourishes and cherishes the church (Eph 5:29) and is, therefore, head of it (Eph 1:22; 5:23, Col 1:18). The church is the pillar and support of the truth (1 Tim 3:15) and God's household, which has been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone (Eph 2:20). It is through the church that believers are equipped to live a God-honoring life (Eph 4:11-13) and unbelievers are presented with the Good News of the Gospel (Matt 28:19-20). As such, the church is a place where fellow believers practice the one-anothers in loving relationships, exercise their spiritual gifts to build up the church (Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:7-10; 1 Pet 4:10), and stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24). Therefore, our premise at MBC is that the church constitutes God's primary vehicle for working in this age and that believers are to engage fully in the life of a local church.

## **The Certainty of the End**

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We believe that Jesus Christ is coming again and that we are eagerly awaiting His literal, earthly, bodily return (1 Cor 1:7; Phil 3:20; Titus 2:13; 1 Pet 1:13). Although the exact moment of His return is unknown (Matt 24:36, 43), it is certain and imminent (1 Pet 4:7). When He comes (Rev 19:11-19), Christ will establish His kingdom and will rule and reign with believers on earth for 1,000 years (Rev 20:2-3). After that, Satan and his forces will be bound in the lake of fire (Rev 20:10) along with all those who rejected Christ (Rev 20:11-15) and God will establish a new heaven and earth in which believers will enjoy perfect fellowship with Him for all eternity (Rev 21-22). Thus, history is moving to a divinely-designed end which God has already determined from eternity past (Is 46:9-10). In the end, Christ is revealed in all His glory and God the Father sovereignly accomplishes all His purposes and becomes the focus of believers forever. Therefore, our premise at MBC is that we hasten the coming of the day of God by living holy lives (2 Pet 3:11-12) and cooperate with Him in accomplishing His purpose to save sinners and sanctify saints prior to the end.

## **OUR PRIORTIES**

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Our priorities describe the essential relationships that govern what and why we do what we do. These three pillars direct how we fulfill the God-given priorities of Maranatha Bible Church:

### **Upward – Exalting God**

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**The Believer's Relationship With God** – To love and worship the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, both individually and corporately.

📖 **Psalm 96:7-9** ~ *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. Worship the Lord in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth.*


📖 **Matthew 22:37** ~ *'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'*


### **Inward – Edifying Believers**

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**The Believer's Relationship with Believers** – To build up God's people to be more like Jesus Christ through loving encouragement and equipping in godly character, biblical understanding, and ministry skills.

📖 **Ephesians 4:12** ~ *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*


 **1 Thessalonians 5:11** ~ *Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.*


 **Hebrews 10:24** ~ *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds*

## **Outward – Evangelizing the Lost**

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**The Believer’s Relationship with the World** – To help those without Christ become passionate worshippers of Christ by sharing the gospel of Christ and establishing churches locally and globally.

 **Matthew 28:19-20** ~ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

 **Acts 1:8** ~ *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

## **OUR PASSIONS**

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Our passions constitute the core values that give direction and focus to the ministry of Maranatha Bible Church and express the key convictions that drive us. The following 10 core values comprise those passions:

1. **God-Centered Worship** – We are committed to declaring God’s glory through worship which magnifies Him in our praise and manifests Him in our actions (John 4:23-24; Rom 12:1-2; Heb 13:15).
2. **Biblical Authority** – We are committed to God’s sufficient, authoritative Word in all matters of belief and behavior for our enjoyment of God and for the ministry of the church, including the verse by verse exposition of God’s Word as a means of bringing about spiritual transformation in the lives of His people (Ps 1:1-3; Ps 19:7-9; Ps 119; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12).
3. **Sound Doctrine** – We are committed to being a pillar and support of the truth by holding fast to sound doctrine as found in the Word of God (1 Tim 3:15; 1 Tim 6:3-4; Tit 1:9)
4. **Prayerful Dependence** – We are committed to prayer as the means by which we couple ourselves to God’s power for all our efforts in life and ministry (Acts 2:42; Eph 6:18-20; Phil 4:6; Col 4:2; 1 Thess 5:16-18).
5. **Relational Roles** – We are committed to husbands, wives, and children fulfilling their biblical roles in the family and in the church (Deut 6:4-9; Ps 78:1-9; Eph 5:22-6:4; 1 Tim 2:11-15).
6. **Qualified Leadership** – We are committed to the submission of Maranatha Bible Church to a plurality of qualified elders who lovingly serve and shepherd the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-3; Heb 13:17).
7. **Active Ministry** – We are committed to every believer faithfully serving in the body of Christ, using the gifts they have been given by the Holy Spirit for its edification (Rom 12:9-13; 1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:11-13; 1 Pet 4:11-12).
8. **Edifying Fellowship** – We are committed to Christ-centered relationships by which we serve and build up fellow believers, especially through the regular gathering of small groups focused on God’s Word, prayer, and mutual love (John 13:34; Heb 10:24-25; Jam 5:16).



- 9. Purposeful Equipping** – We are committed to helping each member of the body of Christ grow in biblical knowledge, godly character, and ministry skills (Eph 4:12; Col 1:28), including the intentional training of equippers and elders for the establishment and edification of the church (1 Tim 5:17; 2 Tim 2:2).
- 10. Evangelistic Outreach** – We are committed to fulfilling Christ’s commission to make disciples of all the nations by proclaiming the Gospel and purposefully contributing to the establishment and growth of the church locally and globally (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Rom 10:14-17).

## OUR PURPOSE

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Our purpose states, in a succinct and concise manner, the basic reason for which Maranatha Bible Church exists: **Maranatha Bible Church** exists to **Display** God’s Glory, **Declare** God’s Truth, **Delight** in God’s Son, and **Disciple** God’s People.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TRUTH DOESN’T GOVERN THE CHURCH<sup>2</sup>

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1. Man becomes the head of the church
  - He makes up his own script for ministry
  - He inevitably becomes a pragmatist
2. Man becomes the center of the church
  - The people’s felt needs govern the direction of the church
  - Pleasing people becomes the primary agenda
  - Numerical goals are put in place

3. Results are manufactured

4. “Reaching” someone is redefined

*“According to this redefinition you do whatever you can to get them in the door and do whatever you can to keep them in the door. True discipleship never happens; rather, each ‘convert’ simply becomes part of the pragmatic program to ‘reach’ the next person.”*

5. Biblical leadership is redefined
  - Type A personalities
  - CEO of large corporations
  - Church becomes option and no longer essential
  - The world takes over the pews
  - Contrastingly, the biblical requirements for leaders:
    - Exemplary, Christ-like character (1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9)
    - Desire and ability to equip the people for the work of ministry (Eph 4:11-12), while providing a context and environment to do so

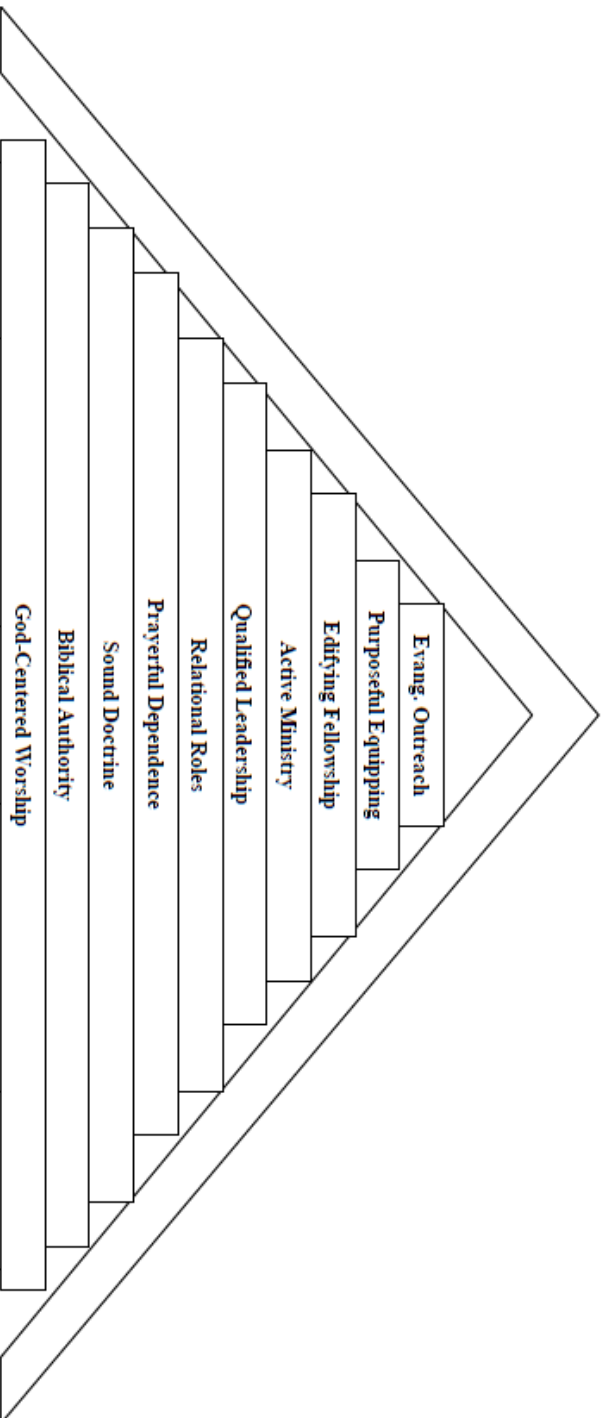
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<sup>2</sup> This section adapted from Jerry Wragg, *Men of Grace and Granite*, “Church for His Glory,” 51-52.



## Maranatha Bible Church Philosophy of Ministry

**Ephesians 2:19** ~ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household.  
**1 Timothy 3:15** ~ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.  
**1 Peter 2:5** ~ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

### Our Purpose



### Our Passions

<b>Inward - Edifying Believers</b>	The Believer' s Relationship With Believers		<b>Upward - Exalting God</b>	The Believer' s Relationship With God		<b>Outward - Evangelizing the Lost</b>	The Believer' s Relationship With the World
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### Our Premise

**The Word of God**  
 ~ What it says about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Man, Salvation, the Church, and the End Times ~