

## WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

What a great year we have had!

190 baptisms  
370 church membership  
3.5million  
Attendance 2056

Built the Fusion building.....

You may not know this but what is happening here is not happening all over Warner Robins or for that matter Georgia.

A recent statistic tells us that 94% of all churches are either in decline or have plateau!

The question is why? I can promise you it is not God's fault!

If church is not working right there is only one place to look, and that is at ourselves.

How should church be done?

**All we have to do is look at God's manual.**

**We read the book of Acts as if it were a history book. The book of Acts is not a picture of what the church use to be it is a picture of what the church should be! God is not trapped in the past, we've just kept him out of the future!**

**When Jesus was on earth is said "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!"**

People see God as we portray him! When they come to church how do they see God.

We are a reflection of God. Our services are a reflection of God

When church is old boring and irrelevant people think God is old boring and irrelevant!

**If we are not careful the church will be seen as a museum for the dead rather than a birthing center for the living!**

### **I. Why do we do what we do?**

**Why do we do life groups, why do we encourage you to find a place to serve, why do we encourage you to share your faith?**

What are we trying to accomplish as a church?

If we don't know the answer to this question we will never be successful!

This should be a fairly simple question to answer.

We are trying to fulfill the great commission. The great commission says reach and teach. The problem is too many churches are willing to sacrifice the reach and teach for the keep principle!

**They become focused on insiders and forget about outsiders!**

As a church our goal is:

**A. Lead people into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, Grow them spiritually and get them involved in community.**

This is as simple and Biblical as it gets!

The great commission says

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”  
Amen.

**Our goal is not just to teach you but to disciple you.**

Our services have specific goals

- B. Our goal is to create an environment where people are led to worship, encouraged to embrace the principles and values of God's Word and challenged to grow, serve and evangelize**

**If we are going to continue to reach people and grow a church we are going to have to not only remember what we are trying to accomplish but also why we exist.**

## **II. WHY WE EXIST**

We have a mission statement that is clear, concise and compelling as well as Biblical. We want to have a mission statement that defines what we are trying to accomplish!

Love God  
Love people  
Love the World, on the journey to life change!

### **A. “Love God”.**

This is where it all begins! When Jesus was asked what is the great commandment, **didn't say it's all great.** When asked what was the greatest command found in the law, Jesus relied, "You shall love your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Matt. 22:37

This is the foundation of all we do as Christians.  
If we don't do this we have failed.

I am afraid that we have lost sight of God.

### **Revelation 2:2-4 (NKJV)**

**2 "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;**

**3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.**

**4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**

**This church did not lose its first love it left its first love. It abandoned Christ.**

### **B. Love People**

When Jesus spoke the Great Commandment he said,

#### **Matt. 22:37-39**

**37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

What does this look like?

We are to love every race, every age, every color. We are to love the lovely and the unlovely, the likeable and the non likeable, those that are a pleasure to be around and those that are a pain to be around. We are to love those that look nice and those that don't. We are to love the liberal and the legalist – those that grant us liberty and those that don't. We are to love the good, the bad and the ugly.

Why? Because they are sinners as we are and need the Savior we have.

At Southside we must not exclude any but serve all and seize the opportunity to share the "good news" to all.

Why does God tell us to love people?

- \* Because He loves people! (Boy did He prove it!)
- \* Because people are sometimes hard to love.

What does loving people look like? It's caring enough about them to tell them, know not just tell them show them that Jesus loves them and wants to have a relationship with them.

### **C. Love the world**

This is not the world's system which we are commanded not to love in I John 2, but the world that God loved and gave His Son to die for (John 3)

The **world** we are to love is the evil sinful world of humanity that is rebellious against Him. We are to punch holes in the darkness by the light generated from God's love. This involves getting involved in ministry and missions.

**God wants us to connect to Himself, connect to other believers and connect to unbelievers.**

That's why He gave us the Great Commission.

### **III. What keeps the church from being and doing what its needs to be and do?**

A. We value tradition over truth. Truth sets people free, not tradition.

We forget what we are supposed to be about.

Mark 7:5-9 (NKJV)

5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?"

6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men— the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

B. We value preferences over transformation.

Once again we need to remind ourselves of why we exist.

We exist to connect people with God and then to other believers.

**C. We have lost our passion/ we don't have the desire to know God or to see people come to know him.**

**We know the truth we just don't do it.**

**We have become like the believers in the book of James.**

James 1:22 (NKJV)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

We know the Bible teaches that we are to read his word, come to church, share our faith, grow in our faith but we just don't do it.

Do you realize what is at stake? It is your family, it is your friends, it is eternity.

IV. Conclusion. Where are you? What do you want to see us as a church accomplish.

What decision do you need to make?