



# Missio Dei

*A Worship Series on the Mission of God*

**Missional Leaders (4 of 6)**

# Sermon Series Focus

- ***Missio Dei*** means “the mission of God” and refers to the “sending” of God—his missionary heart for the world
- This series looks at how God’s missionary heart is both the spark and the fuel of local ministry and church growth
- From the beginning of creation in the OT, to Jesus and the explosion of the early church in the NT, we see that all of God’s redemptive activity has indeed been missional
- Just as the Father sent his Son, and the Son sent us the Spirit, we will see that the church is meant to be Christ’s *missional* Body—his hands and feet to our neighbors

# The Purpose of *Missio Dei*

1. To understand that the term “missional” is not something new and trendy; it’s a biblical concept
2. To discover what it means to be *missional* in our own context; to see ourselves not only as a church that sends, but as a church that is sent to her surrounding culture
3. To help us as an Anabaptist church begin to articulate a fresh new mission and vision for the next season of ministry among the people of the New River Valley
4. To inspire us to intentionally seek God’s will for CMF as we pray, dream, and imagine greater things to come
5. To call out and call forth passionate disciples with God’s missionary heart for those in our sphere of influence

# *Missio Dei in Six Sermons*

1. Missional God (the genesis of mission)
2. Missional Jesus (mission embodied)
3. Missional Church (mission multiplied)
4. **Missional Leaders** (mission pioneered)
5. Missional Living (mission contextualized)
6. Missional Movement (mission impossible)

# What Are Missional Leaders?

- **Missional leaders** are first and foremost followers of Jesus and intentional about personal discipleship
- Missional leaders are driven by their deep love of Jesus and the Missio Dei; loving Maker & neighbor
- Missional leaders make disciples who make disciples; effective discipleship builds a missional church
- Missional leaders mobilize God's people to join his mission and redemptive work in the world
- Missional leaders are pioneers who understand that faith and courage are required to forge new pathways for the sake of the Missio Dei, now and forever

“You can be a disciple without being a missional leader, but you can’t be a missional leader without being a radically committed disciple. So a missional leader is first and foremost a follower...”

Mike Breen, *Multiplying Missional Leaders* (pg. 8)

“Missional leaders understand that *doing* proceeds from *being*, they help people understand *who* they are in Christ prior to what he has called them to do. In Christ we have a new *telos* (end or goal), a new aim for our lives—joining God in the renewal of all things [Missio Dei], which brings glory to God.”

JR Woodward, *Creating a Missional Culture* (pg. 43)

## Paul, Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT

<sup>11</sup> Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, and the **pastors** and **teachers**. <sup>12</sup> Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. <sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

\* See sermon: **Sensitivity** (3 of 7) in *Seven Signs of Life* series



## Ephesians 4:14-16 NLT

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

<sup>15</sup> Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. <sup>16</sup> He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

## Paul, 1 Corinthians 9:19-21 NLT

<sup>19</sup> Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.

<sup>20</sup> When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. <sup>21</sup> When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

## **1 Corinthians 9:22-23 NLT**

<sup>22</sup> When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup> I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

# Paul of Tarsus: Missional Leader & Apostle to the Gentiles

“This man [Paul] is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” Acts 9:15-16

- Paul’s struggles: **2 Corinthians 11:24-31**

“I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

## Paul, Philippians 3:10-14 (VOICE)

<sup>10</sup> I want to know Him *inside and out*. I want to experience the power of His resurrection and join in His suffering, shaped by His death, <sup>11</sup> so that I may arrive *safely* at the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> I'm not there yet, nor have I become perfect; but I am charging on to gain anything *and everything* the Anointed One, Jesus, has in store for me—and nothing will stand in my way because He has grabbed me *and won't let me go*.

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, *as I said*, I know I have not arrived; but there's one thing I am doing: I'm leaving my old life behind, putting everything on the line for this mission.

<sup>14</sup> I am sprinting toward the only goal that counts: *to cross the line*, to win the prize, and to hear God's call *to resurrection life found exclusively* in Jesus the Anointed.

## Philippians 3:15-17 (VOICE)

<sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature ought to think the same way about these matters. If you have a different attitude, then God will reveal this to you as well.

<sup>16</sup> For now, let's hold on to what we have been shown *and keep in step with these teachings.*

<sup>17</sup> Imitate me, brothers and sisters, and look around to those already following the example we have set.

**Paul, 1 Corinthians 11:1 (VOICE)**

So imitate me, *watch my ways, follow my example*, just as I, too, *always seek to imitate the Anointed One*.

## Hebrews 13:7-8, 17 NIV

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

<sup>17</sup> Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.



# Missional Leaders – Lessons For Us

- If God is calling you to be a missional leader, you must be fueled by your love of Jesus, the church, and unbelievers
- Missional leaders understand that if the church isn't making disciples, she isn't being the church of Jesus
- Missional leaders aren't looking for the spotlight, but they do recognize their calling and are willing on God's authority to serve the church and further the Missio Dei
- Without missional disciples helping to courageously lead the way in the face of fear, doubts, and risk-taking... the church loses her missional impulse and slowly dies
- Despite the hardships that missional leaders face, the reward is far greater than the sacrifices and trials
- God often chooses leaders who have a "past" — humble, teachable, patient, forgiving, persons of peace, etc.

## **Paul, 1 Corinthians 1:25-27 NIV**

<sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)