

Missio Dei

A Worship Series on the Mission of God

Missional Movement (6 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 is a Missional Movement?

- A missional movement is born of the Holy Spirit and flows out of knowing God's **BIG** missionary heart for the world
- Knowing the missional Jesus and making disciples is the source of an authentic missional movement; to be about "mission" and doing *only...* is a car without an engine
- The early church saw a missional movement because they had a life-changing encounter with the resurrected Jesus; it was the same for the 16th century Anabaptists!
- Missional movements occur when we say stop playing church and going through the motions; the Spirit is poured out when we get serious about discipleship
- A missional movement looks like baptisms, brokenness, and breakthroughs; like a wave of God's Spirit washing people up onto the shore of his peace and freedom

Luke, The Book of Acts 1:4-5 NIV

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus, Gospel of John 15:15-18 NLT

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

John 15:25-27 NLT

²⁵ I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. ²⁶ But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

²⁷ “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

Acts 2:1-4 NIV

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:14, 17-21 NIV

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

¹⁷ *“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

¹⁹ *I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

²⁰ *The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

²¹ *And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Acts 2:37-41 NIV

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”

⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 2:42-47 NIV

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Excerpt from
Acts for Everyone, Part 1 (pg. 45)
N.T. Wright

Paul, Ephesians 3:16-19 NLT

¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Mission Possible?

- What if we began to see that our whole existence is to bring glory to Jesus through continuing the Missio Dei?
- What if we asked God for a fresh experience of Jesus and a movement of his Holy Spirit on us and our church?
- What if we recommitted ourselves to the regular gathering of the church for teaching, deep fellowship, breaking bread, and serious prayer for a missional movement?
- What if we all were convicted of Christ's call to make disciples, understood our plan for making disciples, and intentionally acted on that plan with a holy urgency?
- What if we really began to trust the God who has “unlimited resources” and dreamed as big as the Missio Dei?

New River District of Virginia Mennonite Conference



Ephesians 3:20-21 NLT

²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org