



God's missionary Agent

The state of the church now

As we began our new series "Who are we?" Fusi challenged us to consider how the church has been molded into the pattern of the world - in particular narcissism (inward looking and self centredness).

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Q This verse speaks of us about being molded into the world's pattern of thinking - do you think the church also needs its thinking renewed? How can we do this?

Over the coming weeks we are going to look at what God teaches in His word about the church and consider how we can be transformed into the church of God on His mission.

The mission of God: partnership with man in creation

Motivated by love, God began his mission by creating and forming everything, visible and the invisible, all with a purpose. God created man to bear his image, and to further his mission here on earth.

Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.

Q What mission did God give man?

Q What were some of the consequence of sin?

- *Creation began to decay and not flourish under the influence of sin*
- *War and disunity and corruption infiltrated God's beautiful creation*

God knew before the foundation of the earth that man would rebel and sin - and had a plan for restoration and redemption that would start with Abraham:

The mission of God through Abraham: partnership with Abraham

He called an idol worshipper to be the means by which creation is redeemed. Abraham became the father of nations and the father of mission.

The promises that God made to Abraham included that his descendants were to rule and fill the earth. God once again partnered with man to redeem creation. God wants to fill the earth with his glory.

Out of Abraham was born Isaac, and then Jacob, and then through Jacob the 12 sons that became the 12 tribes of Israel - a nation of missionaries with a purpose.

Exodus 19:5-6

Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

Q How does God describe Israel?

The mission of God through a nation: Partnership with Israel

Israel became the means by which God was going to redeem the world.

Isaiah 49:6

...“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Israel thought too small – thinking their mission was for the restoration of their nation.

Q What was God's plan?

- *Not just Israel but also gentiles*
- *Not just restoration but also salvation*
- *Not just in the Middle East but the ends of the earth*

Q What are the parallels to the church - how can we fall into the same mistake?

The mission of God through Jesus: God's own Son (The incarnation)

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.

Q What was Christ able to accomplish that Israel could not?

- *Christ became a sacrifice for the nations*
- *He atoned for the sins of the world*
- *He was the means of reconciling man with God*

The mission of God through the church: God's missional people

Q Did God's mission to seek and save the lost end with Jesus' resurrection and ascension?

It was just the beginning: Instead, the great commission serves as proof that God is still on a mission and the people he uses are his image bearers who have now become his missionary agent.

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Q In what way do these verses remind us of Adam and Eve's mission?

“All authority has be given to me...” - the authority which was once lost has been restored back to Jesus and he releases that to his people.

“Therefore, Go! and make disciple...” be fruitful, multiply, increase and fill the earth.

We are God’s missionary agents to fulfill the same project of Gen 1:28

Practically:

Bellow are some of the things that Fusi suggested make us missional.
Discuss these further in your Citigroup.

1. The vision of our church as a family we are:

- Christ-centred... and this helps us to be more focused on the city & its brokenness
- Nations focused...
- Gospel advancing ... let us never grow weary in hosting nations and going to the nations.
- This is in our Vision, which means our DNA .

2. Worship that will shape the nations of the world and realign us to the vision of God... from introspective worship to God focus and mission focus worship

3. Seeing your job as part of the mission of God. Some of you, if it weren’t for your job, you would not have made it to the nations. Your job has become a vehicle to get you to the mission field.

4. The blessing of Dubai, Emirates has been a blessing to us, it has been placed here by God to get a lot of us here, but also to get us from here to many parts of the world. Pray for this country.

5. Businessmen, One of you has actually come to me and said, God placed me here to make money, and I want to make a lot of it so that we might impact many parts of the world Business men, lets really talk this seriously.

6. Our Youth, going to the Philippines, what an incredible thing to see. Let’s stand with them and support what they are doing.

7. Our prayers and prophetic. This is faithfulness... I would like to honour Citigroups for the way you rallied behind some of our friends around the world in prayer. If I can’t go! I will pray and speak faith into the work out there.

8. Our generosity. Even as we take up our special offering again today, God is coming to us at City Hill again, to encourage us to release the resources entrusted to us. He has entrusted to us the wealth of this nation for the benefit of the world.

If the church is God’s missionary agent, then it means we don’t need to join a missionary agency to engage in the mission of God, the Church is God’s agent of mission.

If the church is not missional, it's probably because the way of the world, the self centred has taken its toll.

The End of Mission: Worship continues

Revelations 7:9-12

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"