

***“Our mission: to enable people to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ, growing in their love for God, each other and the world.”***

**Our Mission:**

- ‘a sending out or being sent out to perform a special service, the special duty for which one is sent, a special task to which one devotes one’s life; calling’ (websters)
- not simply a statement that defines or identifies, a purpose we gather around, sign on to together – motivating cause for the group to exist.

**To Enable people**

- about providing the atmosphere and resources for people to encounter – to do! When we enable we do not do for them, we show, educate, release – fully expect them to engage in the doing once enabled. (ongoing process)
- This is a huge posture statement – we do not have staff, programs, resources to accomplish for you but to train and equip you – radically different posture.
- Note that enablement is deliberate and measurable – you would know if training is working or not – you would have results to measure, change that could not be missed!

**To become:**

- invitation to something – move from what is currently to something different
- Evangelism – inviting people to encounter God through Jesus work on the cross.
- Building bridges and relationships that allow for people to be engaged in life and conversation about Jesus work on the cross
- Invitation to selfless service to Jesus ( ‘there can be no savior without settling the issue of Lord’ Tozer)

**Faithful followers of Jesus:**

- Faithful - ‘loyal, conscientious, accurate; reliable.’ (websters)
- To accurately reflect Jesus – must have heart driven lives that are led by the Holy Spirit’s empowering. Not a religious devotion to institution or way of doing things – a devotion to God’s daily leading and empowering in all situations!
- ‘Love the Lord your God with All your Heart, soul & strength’ – foundation
- authentic walk and love for others – unity in diversity of people
- Phil 2 – let this attitude be in you that was in Christ Jesus – humility, sacrifice, other centered living!
- Jesus teaching and life was unmistakably outward centered, other focused, mission driven.

**Growing**

- ever changing – maturing and progressing – bearing fruit in season
- word never suggests a having arrived – growth to a point – but a constant change from one state to another.
- Growth is both noticeable and measurable – evident from inside and outside

### **In Their Love for:**

- two implications here – individual and group included in the word ‘their’
- ‘Love’ – huge to unpack the biblical passages on what love looks like:
- selfless, other centered, sacrificial, motivating, costly, - need to be unpacking this often for our people – to be the motivating factor in everything.
- Greater love has no one than this....., They will know you are my disciples by your Love....., Greatest of these is Love....., Love your neighbor as....., for God so Loved.....,

### **God**

- Love for God evidenced in Holiness in life of person – growing desire for God’s way over mine!
- Love the Lord your God....., Your rules are like precious gold.....,

### **Each Other**

- how the body works and relates to one another is critical. Evidence of growth will be a deepening love between each other, mutual respect, sacrifice, putting others first, honoring giftedness, encouragement etc.
- cannot put these three things out of order – cannot claim a love for God and unsaved and not have a growing love for others in the body. Church – body – designed by God and empowered by Holy Spirit to do – critical this be a progression seen inside the body and by the world.

### **The World**

- there must be an outworking of our faith that is evident to those around us
- ‘For God so loved the world.....’ our hearts must reflect God’s – thus the hunker down and wait it out mentality is sin.
- By actively loving and caring for our world – especially those who do not know of God’s love through Jesus – we show Jesus transforming work
- ‘Go into all the world....’