

# The Church: A Missional Community

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## **An Illustration:**

Reclamation Art

## **A Principle:**

There is a reason why God locates local churches within particular neighborhoods.

## **Two Significant Words**

1. Justice

2. Reconciliation

We've begun to see that almost everything we do in our church (that's worth doing) is an outworking of God's reconciliation mandate to us. Evangelism is calling us to be reconciled to God, discipleship ministry is to further God's restorative and redemptive work in our lives and relationships, and compassion/justice ministries are to address the brokenness in society with the healing power of our God...

## An Example to Follow

### Three guiding principles that guide our reconciliation ministries in Pasadena:

#### **Guideline #1: Enter In (Mark 7:24-30)**

There is a semantic debate that often torpedoed engaging in God's mission through incarnational involvement: Missional seems to connote "going" while incarnational seems to connote "staying".

Jesus entering into a "questionable" person's life:

#1: "Wrong" place for Jesus to be (v. 24). *Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house...*

#2: "Wrong" kind of person for Jesus to be speaking to (7:25-26). *A woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Gentile, born in Syrian Phoenicia.*

#3: The "wrong kind of person" received the blessing of the King (7:28-30). *"You may go your way. The demon has left your daughter."*

Jesus entered in to relationship with one broken by sin from him and from God. No one else had ever done this. And, in the course of relationship, beautiful things happened

#### **Guideline #2: Call to – follow Jesus as Lord (8:34-38; 10:17-27)**

*If anyone would come after me, let him... (8:34)*

Three Related Demands:

Demand #1: *Deny Self*

Demand #2: *Take Up a Cross*

Demand #3: *Follow*

**Guideline #3: Walk with – our unexpected, eternal brothers and sisters (10:28-31)**

*“There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time... with persecutions... (10:30)”*

**Jesus’ Two Telling Lists**

#1: What you leave: house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, and lands.

#2: What you gain: houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and lands.

**Practical Suggestions**

1. Be clear about your “practical ecclesiology.”
2. Stay in touch with local needs and developments.
3. Identify and empower leadership for the task.
4. Clarify priorities.
5. Find partners.
6. Tell the stories.
7. Assess and re-assess.



# Lake Avenue Church Guiding Statement

**Our Mission:** Following Jesus, we participate in God's reconciling work by making disciples of all peoples and generations. (Matthew 28:18-20; Col 1:19-20)

**Our Vision:** Presenting each one complete in Christ (Col 1:28-29)

## Community Essentials:

Worshiping in  
Unity

Growing in Grace  
Filled Communities

Serving God's  
Mission

## Our Core Values:

### Kingdom Community

Reflecting God's family in the church, we are unified across cultural, generational, socio-economic and racial / ethnic differences (Revelation 7:9; Ephesians 2:11-22)

### Evangelistic Community

We are a community that individually and corporately calls people to follow Jesus. (Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15)

### Reconciling Community

Pursuing God's justice, mercy and compassion, we are involved in his ministries of reconciliation. (Isaiah 58:1-12; Micah 6:8; 2 Cor 5:14-20)

### God Glorifying Community

Guided by God's Word and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to be a prayerful community that makes the glory of God known through our words and lives. (John 17:20-23; Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 3:10-11,21)

## **Dr. Waybright's Select Bibliography:**

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