

Flagstaff Christian Fellowship expanded Purpose and Vision:

Flagstaff Christian Fellowship exists to show how great God is by helping each person and family grow in fervent love for God, love for one another and love for those without Christ, both locally and globally. We seek to accomplish this through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and through the careful teaching and practice of God's word of truth. One of our main goals is that our church families would be a lighthouse to the nearby university community, including the international students. We can condense this expanded statement into the following purpose statement:

Our Mission:

TO EXALT GOD BY HELPING EACH PERSON FERVENTLY LOVE GOD AND OTHERS; AND TO HELP MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE GROUPS.

This mission encompasses the two Great Commandments (Mark 12:28-31) and the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). To help the local church attain this mission, God entrusts the leadership and oversight of the church to a plurality of godly men who are subject to Christ (the Head) and to the Scriptures (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

We believe that God has established certain timeless and trans-cultural roles for men and women, both in the church and in the home. Leadership in both spheres is entrusted to men (1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24). We have a separate paper that goes into more detail on this topic.

Our Methods (and core values that help us attain our mission):

OUR FIRST PURPOSE: TO HELP PEOPLE OBEY THE FIRST GREAT COMMANDMENT: TO EXALT GOD BY HELPING EACH PERSON GROW TO LOVE GOD FERVENTLY.

- To love God, a person must enter a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ and repentance from sin. Thus understanding and believing the gospel is foundational (John 3:1-21).
- God's Word of truth is our only standard and unchanging authority for faith, life, and godliness. In light of this, we seek to teach the Bible accurately with the aim of exalting God, humbling sinners, and equipping the saints for obedience and service (1 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Eph. 4:11-16). We can only love God to the degree that we know Him as He has revealed Himself in His Word, and to the extent that we have humbled our hearts before Him in repentance and submission.
- God seeks those who worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Corporate worship should be joyful, reverent, and heartfelt, in line with biblical truth (the Psalms, Eph. 5:19-20). To this end, we seek to utilize both the doctrinally sound hymns of the faith from past generations and the contemporary songs, hymns, and spiritual songs that promote devotion, reverence, and love for God in line with His revealed truth. We have a separate paper outlining our philosophy of worship.
- Remembering the Lord's death through the Lord's Table is an important part of worship. We seek to celebrate the Lord's Supper often (1 Cor. 11:23-34).
- Stewardship of the material resources God entrusts to us is an important measure of our love for God and faithfulness to Him (Matt. 6:21; Luke 16:10-13, where "the little thing" = money). We do not pressure anyone to give. None of the pastoral staff have access to the giving records. We believe that God owns 100 percent of all that we have, and that we must prayerfully, conscientiously invest it in His king-

dom. Thus we urge each person to give to God's work in this church and to world missions generously and cheerfully, as He has prospered them (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).

OUR SECOND PURPOSE: TO HELP PEOPLE OBEY THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT: TO EXALT GOD BY HELPING EACH PERSON GROW TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER FERVENTLY.

- In order for genuine love and caring to take place, we must get to know one another in more than a superficial way. This means spending time together not only on Sunday mornings, but in smaller groups or one-on-one throughout the week. The early church gathered in a large meeting for worship and instruction, but also from house to house (Acts 2:42, 46). Thus we urge and encourage each member to get involved with other members on a personal level for mutual growth and care. Several different structured opportunities for this are available.
- Love for one another in the local church requires both practical good deeds (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14; 1 John 3:16-17) and working through relational conflicts (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-20). This must be done with a commitment both to biblical unity and to important biblical truth (Eph. 4:3, 13, 15, 25). We must bear with one another on minor personality, doctrinal, and/or methodological differences (Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:2; Phil. 2:1-4; 4:2, 5). On major doctrinal or methodological issues, we must seek to come to consensus through open, biblically based discussion (Acts 15:1-29). If separation over doctrine or methodology occurs, all parties concerned should seek to speak and act in love towards one another (Acts 15:36-41; 1 Cor. 9:6; 2 Tim. 4:11).
- It is an act of love to confront a brother or sister who is in doctrinal or moral error, and as a last resort, to remove an unrepentant person from the church (Gal. 2:11-14; 6:1; 1 Cor. 5:1-13).
- It is to God's glory to reflect in our local fellowship the reconciling power of His love through racial and cultural diversity (Acts 13:1; 16:14-34; Col. 3:11). The church is the family of God, (1 Tim. 3:15). Families are made up of a variety of ages and personalities. Therefore, rather than targeting one segment of society (Boomers, Busters, etc.), we deliberately aim to include young and old, rich and poor, and the ethnic diversity of our community (Col. 3:11).

OUR THIRD PURPOSE: TO HELP PEOPLE FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION: TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL PEOPLE GROUPS.

- Fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) is the ultimate reason the Lord has left His church on this earth. After all, we can worship Him without distraction and love one another without conflict once we get to heaven! Thus we must keep outreach, both locally and globally, at the heart of all we do.
- We seek to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, both from the pulpit and through a Spirit-filled, equipped membership (Mark 16:15; 1 Cor. 9:16, 23; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet. 3:15).
- We seek to be a lighthouse to the nearby university community, including the international students (Our "Jerusalem," Acts 1:8).
- We seek to raise up workers who are called by God to be sent out cross-culturally into His harvest, so that every people group may hear the good news, that Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners (Matt. 9:38; Acts 13:2-4; 1 Tim. 1:15).
- We seek to support those who go cross-culturally with the gospel through frequent prayer, faithful communication, and generous giving (Col. 4:3; 3 John 7-8).