

# Authentic Transformation

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. 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.**

**~Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV<sup>11</sup>)**

## 1) What Is The Church?

- A) So far this Summer, we have been exploring the question: "What is the church?" Beginning with Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we have focused on experiencing the church according to it's MISSION.
- B) What is the MISSION of the church? YES! The church "makes disciples!" This is the central MISSION of the church! This is the most important purpose of the church!
- C) How do we make disciples? The church "goes" to family, friends, and neighbors with the Good News about Jesus Christ! This our "first step" in accomplishing our MISSION.
- D) What happens with new disciples? The church "baptizes" new disciples (and sometimes the older ones, too) as part of identifying with the MISSION of Jesus Christ's church.
- E) What do we do with these newly baptized disciples? The church "teaches" people about God's great story, and how God has been on a huge MISSION to make disciples!
- F) Who is supposed to "make disciples" by "going,"

“baptizing,” and “teaching?” Jesus certainly must have left such an important MISSION in the hands of important people, right? Yes!

- G) Jesus placed the success of the MISSION into the hands of regular people who were already disciples, and He called them “family” (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15). The MISSION is for disciples to make disciples who make disciples!

## 2) What Does The Church Teach?

- A) If Jesus wants the whole family of disciples to participate in “teaching,” what is it disciples (like you and me), are supposed to teach?
- B) The most important thing for every disciple to be able to teach is the “Gospel” of Jesus Christ! “Gospel” means “Good News!” A disciple teaches the “Good News!”

## 3) What Is This “Good News?”

- A) We live in a world filled with bad news. But the very worst news is not what you hear in the media. The worst news is that all people are sinners (Romans 3:23), and that God’s penalty for sin is separation from God, eternal death (6:23).
- B) How can sin, death, and separation be part of the good news? Here it comes... God loves people (John 3:16), and doesn’t just leave them stuck in sin, death, and separation.
- C) God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to make a way to have a good relationship with God (John 14:6)! This is GOOD NEWS! If anyone entrusts their life to Jesus, they will be saved by God’s great & undeserved grace (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- D) We are the people of God (church) who bring good news to everyone we know (Acts 1:8). This is what we all teach!
- E) How? We “teach” the good news about Jesus by the authentic way we live. True transformation authenticates the message of good news. Always preach the Gospel, and because it’s necessary, be sure to use your words, too!