

Question #3. “Love in Action”

New members are normally asked to stand before the congregation and answer a few questions as an expression of their public commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

1. Do you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

2. Do you seek to turn away from evil in the world, and turn toward God’s goodness?

3. Will you continue to grow in your faith-- in worship, Christian education, fellowship with God’s people in the Church, and service to others?

The third question focuses on the shared relationships of believers in the church. This is love in action. Jesus’ great commandment is to “love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10 27) In God’s wisdom we are joined together into a family of faith. The Church is both a local congregation of believers and a universal spiritual union of all believers in “The Body of Christ.” (Romans 12:4-5, Ephesians 4:25, and 1Corinthians chapter 12)

Rev. Rick Warren has written a couple of #1 Best Selling books describing “The Purpose-Driven Church,” (Grand Rapids:Zondervan, 1995) and “The Purpose-Driven Life,” (Grand Rapids:Zondervan, 2002). In these great books he describes a balanced perspective of God’s Five Purposes for the whole church in general and for our individual lives in particular.

- You were planned for God’s pleasure- Worship.
- You were formed for God’s family- Fellowship.
- You were created to become like Christ- Discipleship.
- You were shaped for serving God- Ministry (to one another in the church)
- You were made for a mission- Evangelism (sharing Christ with others in the world)

These five purposes can be seen in the early church. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

Does your life include all five purposes? Which ones are strongest? Weakest?

Are you willing to grow into new relationships as a part of God’s family here at our church?