

Engaging the Church and Community

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH
... AND THE COMMUNITY

Why are we here today?

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... AND THE COMMUNITY

ETR 5 Branches



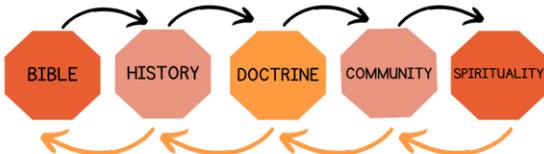
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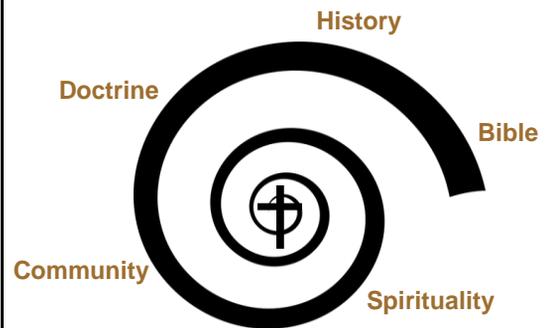


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... AND THE COMMUNITY

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Why does the Church exist?

ACCA Purpose Statement

To glorify God by loving as Jesus loves.

**To glorify God
by loving
as Jesus loves**

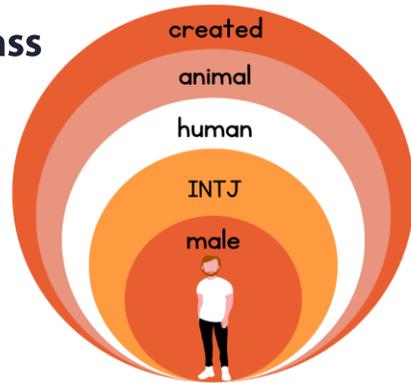
**To glorify God (goal)
by loving (means)
as Jesus loves (standard)**

**To glorify God
by loving (God is love)
as Jesus loves (God's perfect love)**

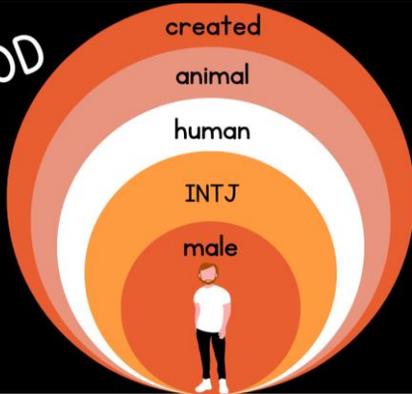
God is love

God is simple

Class



GOD



"God is love" (1 John 4:8)

To glorify God
by loving (God is love)
as Jesus loves (God's perfect love)

How is Jesus the perfect expression of God's love?

John 1:18

“No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

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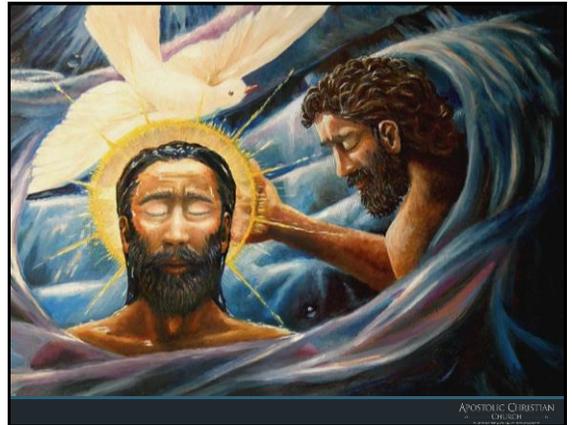
God, being pure spirit, is invisible to physical eyesight. Not even Abraham, “the friend of God,” **not even Moses**, “whom the LORD knew face to face” (Deuteronomy 34:10) could see the divine glory in its fulness. When Moses asked that he might see the glory of God, he was told, “you cannot see my face; for man shall not see me and live” (Exodus 33:20). He was instructed instead to stand in a hollow in the rocky slope of Sinai while the glory of God passed by, and there, said God, “I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen” (Exodus 33:22 f.). We should perhaps say ... that Moses saw, so to speak, the afterglow of the divine glory. To this extent was it true that Moses could “behold the form of the LORD” (Numbers 12:8); but the glory on which even Moses could not look has now been displayed among men and women.

“Who has seen him and can describe him?” asked Ben Sira concerning God (Sirach 43:31). He left his question unanswered, but now an answer is forthcoming, for **one who has not only seen him but has his being in his bosom has declared him.** (F. F. Bruce, *The Gospel of John*, 88)

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God doesn't need us

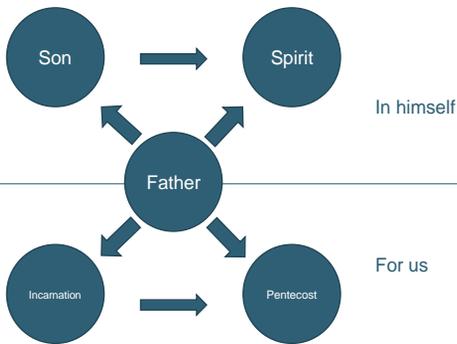
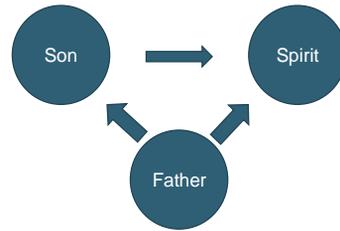
If God does not need us,
why do we exist?

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Our existence is a
gift from God.

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“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26).



God's Mission is a Reflection of Himself.



God's Mission is a Reflection of Himself.



Incarnation

Pentecost

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

How do we love as Jesus loves?

Our purpose is to join in the mission of God

- To take God's hands and be drawn into his life

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"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"
(Matt 28:19–20).

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Does God need us for his mission?

Our mission is a gift from God

- We carry out God's love and mission distinctly

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"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ... There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ... **But unto every one of us is given grace** according to the measure of the gift of Christ. ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"
(Eph 4:1–13)

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Outline of Day

The Teacher: Why the Church Exists

The Evangelist: Evangelism, Cultural Ministry, Apologetics, Ethics

The Apostle: Church Planting

The Pastor: Discipleship, Counseling, Administration

The Prophet: The Glorious Future of the Church

The Church exists to glorify God

by loving within his perfect, simple love

as Jesus has fully revealed to us

according to the gifting and calling he has given to us in the church body.

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