

➤ Our purpose statements very first declaration is:

“We are **to be** a community were people **become** deeply Rooted in Christ.”

Is that who we are?

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Is that what we are focused on – fixated on?

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Is that the singular driving focus behind everything we do – in our personal lives, in the church, and in our community?

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Are you willing to live out our purpose statement that can only start with “Being Rooted In Christ”?

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**“Rooted in Christ”**

A purpose statement should define the core purpose of a church (why it exists), be inspiring, long-term in nature, easily understood, and a guide for church decision-making.

**“Our purpose is to be a community where people become deeply rooted in Christ, consistently grow in faith, and actively reach to all.”**

A vision statement is a description of what the future might look like if the purpose is achieved.

**“Our vision is to be used by God to change lives while positively affecting our community.”**

The Lordship Principle starts with Jesus asking us:

❖ **WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?** Matthew 16:15

**Jesus wants to know “Who his disciples” say that he is!**

*This is the ultimate question of Christianity and it demands an answer from each one of us!*

- Who is Jesus Christ? Is he truth for only some people, or is he truth for all people?
- Is he the Savior just for the church, or is he the Savior for the whole world?
- Is he private truth for some people, or public truth for all?

**This is the most critical question facing the church in America today, as it relates to our faith and our future.**

If a church wants to be a growing, thriving, dynamic, life changing church, Jesus Christ has to be the reason behind every action we take.

**“For in Him (Christ) we live and move and have our being”.  
Acts 17:28**

The earliest Christian creed was simply:  
**“Jesus is Lord!”**

From the Gospel of Matthew to Revelation, what we find in no uncompromising terms, is a clear witness to Jesus identity as God’s unique Son and his absolute authority as the governing Lord of the universe.

**“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2:36**

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we can be saved.” Acts 4:12**

**Jesus told his disciples: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6**

**Jesus said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11:25**

- ❖ For the NT church, Jesus was clearly more than a good moral teacher who pointed to God. Jesus Christ was the object of their faith!
- ❖ The message and focus of the NT church, that transformed the world, was not a vague concept of a benevolent God. Instead it was a message of radical faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

**Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his son... <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 1John 5:1,5**

**Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1John 5:10-12**

And why did the NT church make such bold sweeping claims? Because those people were thoroughly convinced that Jesus Christ had literally been resurrected from the grave.

- To the believers in the NT church, the resurrection was not a symbolic faith statement, but a supernatural intervention of God in space and time.

**For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1Corinthians 15:3-8**

**If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 1Corinthians 15:14, 17-19**

**“IF we said Christ rose from the grave, and he did not, not only would we be liars, but we would be lying against God, because we said that God has done something that God has not done.”  
1Corinthians 15:15**

- Believing that Jesus Christ is the living Lord and that he is the object of our faith is the first step in what it means to be “Rooted in Christ”.
- There cannot be a second step unless we are fully committed to this first step.
  - ✓ **Renewal happens in every single church that moves away from a vague theism to a clear faith in Jesus Christ alone!**

What does “Rooted in Christ” or “Clear Faith” look like in bullet points?

- The focus of the church is not church, but Jesus!
- God is only made know to us in and through Christ Jesus.
- Faith only comes alive in Christ Jesus.
- Lives can only be transformed and empowered through Christ Jesus.