



Pastor Mike Chapman

Too often we (the church) have circled our wagons, created little enclaves of piety and worship, built walls around our communities of faith, and invited people in only if they were willing to become like us. We have created churches "for us." This sounds a lot more like a Pharisee-style religion than the one Jesus died to establish.

Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice (*i.e.* "religious activities"). For I have come to call not the righteous (*i.e.* "insiders"), but sinners (*i.e.* "outsiders")." In other words, if we are not a church for others we are not the church of Jesus.

THE MISSIONAL COMMAND

Matthew 28:18-20, All authority in heaven and earth is mine. Go, therefore, and make disciples of the nations...I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (NIV)

This is Jesus' **marching orders** to the church.

The church is a "sent people."

To be a disciple is to be missional.

Jesus gave this commission to **ordinary people**.

The book of Acts is not an account of “superstars.”

THE MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

An apostolic **ethos** birthed a missional people.

Ethos is a corporate, intense mental state that is commonly shared by a group of people.

It is the deeply held values, concerns and convictions that bring a group of people into a common cause and a common community.

Characteristics of a missional ethos...

It is a **movement** not an **institution**.

Survival is not the goal; **serving God’s mission** is.

The theology of **safety** is abandoned.

It is characterized by **passion** and **action**.

THE MISSIONAL AGENDA

Our mission is an **incarnational** mission.

John 20:21, *As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*
(NLT)

John 1:14, *The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.* (Msg)

We do not need to be more religious. We need to be more **connected**.

THE MISSIONAL SPIRIT

Acts 1:8, You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (NIV)

The Holy Spirit is an **apostolic** Spirit.

A Christ follower is a person moved by the **wind**.