

## 1. The desire and purpose of EBF is to glorify God

- (1) "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever" – WCF
  - (a) Romans 15:5-9
  - (b) 1 Cor 10:31
  - (c) 2 Cor 4:15
  - (d) Phil 2:9-11
- (2) It is a *desire* and *purpose*, not necessarily a statement that we accomplish this perfectly
  - (a) It is our desire, which we often fail in our self-centeredness and sin
  - (b) But God is faithful, even when we are faithless, for He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim 2:13)
  - (c) He has bound Himself to us in His grace, to bring us to joy in our glorying of Him
- (3) Our stories are intended by God to reveal His majesty and glory to all of creation
  - (a) "to glorify" means to honor, appreciate, and reveal the value, worth, beauty, and goodness of something
    1. to appreciate, honor, and desire it ourselves
    2. to reveal its beauty and goodness to others for its own sake
    3. EXAMPLE: "You shall not use the name of the Lord in vain for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Ex 20:7)
      - a. When somebody exclaims "Oh, God!" when they are annoyed, or "Jesus!" when they hit their thumb with a hammer.
      - b. If you ask them to not treat His name like that, they will most likely respond, "I didn't mean anything by it."
      - c. But that's the point! They don't mean anything by it. It's not treating the Lord with the proper honor, appreciation, or value. It de-glorifies Him.
  - (b) every moment in history has this purpose to glorify Him
    1. Eph 3:8-12
    2. Is 43:7
    3. Rev 4:11; 5:13
  - (c) achieving this purpose is where Creation, humans included, find joy and delight
    1. **"God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him" – J. Piper**
    2. **Isaiah 44:23** Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified<sup>1</sup> in Israel.
    3. Ps 16:11
    4. Ps 67:4
- (4) So all that we purpose to do at EBF is to glorify God, honoring, appreciating, and revealing His supreme value, ultimate worth, infinite beauty, and perfect goodness.
  - (a) This can be formally
    1. Church outreach (Homeless Week), fellowship groups (YG, Home Groups), corporate worship together (Sunday mornings), prayer meetings, etc.
  - (b) But this is usually informal
    1. Thinking Christianly
      - a. How I treat wealth (generous, as a tool to benefit others) glorifies the King who gave up His riches so that I might have His inheritance?
      - b. How I treat power (give mine away for others in service, don't demand respect, share power with the powerless, respect those in authority over me with hard-working joy) glorifies the one who saved me by His grace and gives me His Spirit to empower my soul to see Him
      - c. How I treat sexuality (as the culmination of relational intimacy, exclusive to one as an indication of love and other-centeredness, as a gift for another rather than a means to my own satisfaction) glorifies God as it shows His exclusive

commitment to us, His deep relational intimacy of spirit, and His nature of blessing the one whom He loves and values

- d. Who do I functionally look to for power and strength?
  - i. My father in law, Charles, often prays spontaneously on the phone or in the car or in the grocery store
  - ii. He is living as if He really believes that God is near, active, and powerful...weird, huh?
2. We reveal our values (God and His Kingdom) in the little things of life
  - a. Discussion about politics: *What* do we value and why?
  - b. Debates about competition: *How* do we debate and why?
  - c. Defending the weak: What do we believe about strength and weakness according to the gospel?
  - d. Denial to compromise: *Whom* we love leads us to take stands when tempted to dishonor Him or do something that would bring shame on His name.
  - e. We don't have to be preachy, just state simply why we do things differently
    - i. You will be amazed at how well the Gospel explains the world around us better than any other worldview
    - ii. Many times the world can recognize this
    - iii. These "small" statements glorify God (see Daniel's relationship with Nebuchadnezzar)
3. Remember that sharing the gospel is simply reporting about the King, not laying down a tome of legal reasoning on why the gospel is true

## 2. We desire to glorify God by providing all peoples an opportunity

### (1) people groups vs. nations

- (a) In our mission we need to see people groups (ethnos) rather than geopolitical boundaries
  1. The word translated "nations" in the New Testament is "ethnos", where we get the word "ethnicity"
  2. PNG is one nation, but hundreds of ethnic people groups
  3. Eugene in one city but with various ethnic people groups
- (b) What defines or delineates a people group?
  1. Shared language
  2. Shared history
  3. Shared values
- (c) What are the immediate "people groups" that you are called to reach
  1. with shared language, history, and values
  2. There are subcultures that each of us enter into every day
    - a. How does the gospel define history and values differently?
    - b. Using their language (drop the *Christianese* as much as possible)
- (d) What are the distant people groups that EBF is called to reach?
  1. **Cambodian** people group – **Mary Haag**
    - a. Do we know this?
    - b. Are we familiar with this people group?
    - c. How can we be involved in reaching this unreached people group?
  2. Aria and nearby tribes of **PNG** – **John Jette**
- (e) Personalization – the process of involving every believer in using their Spirit-given gifts to advance God's global cause to gather worshippers to Himself
  1. Identification with tribal believers and missionaries reaching them
  2. Involvement with tribal peoples and missionaries that reach them
- (f) How can we personalize ourselves with the Cambodian and PNG people groups as a church?

### (2) God's heart has always been to reveal Himself to all the people groups of the world

- (a) This is not merely a New Testament mandate
  1. 1 Chr 16:31

2. Ps 46:10
3. Is 42:6-9
- (b) Israel was to reflect God's character to the nations around her
- (c) The church is filled with the Holy Spirit in order to reveal the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ
  1. empowered by the Holy Spirit
    - a. Is 42:1/Mt 12:18-21
    - b. Acts 2 – Pentecost
    - c. Acts 4:31 – the Spirit's presence led to bold gospel proclamation
- (3) "All people" includes Christians, too!
  - (a) Christians need to hear the gospel and respond in grateful faith and joyful obedience
  - (b) Therefore, it is our purpose at EBF to bring each other to the good news of Jesus Christ over and over again, imploring each other to trust in Him and walk with Him in joy
  - (c) This is the goal of discipleship through Bible studies, Home Groups, etc.

### 3. We present an opportunity to hear, respond, and obey the good news of Jesus Christ

- (1) to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ,
  - (a) Reached/Unreached as different than Lost/Found
    1. Traditional missions measures *response* to the gospel (Lost/Found)
    2. We need to learn to measure *accessibility* to the gospel in terms of opportunity (reached/unreached)
      - a. Good News: 4.3 billion people have access to the gospel of Jesus
      - b. Troubling News: 1.7 billion live where there is little to no access to the gospel
  - (b) Evangelism's goal is to proclaim the great news of the King's arrival, redemption, and victory to those *who have had no opportunity to hear it*
    1. Remember that the gospel is heralded message of what the King has done
    2. Romans 10:14 – "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not *heard*?"
    3. It is the message of *wholeness* and *redemption* and *reign*
      - a. Man, the created, rejected God as King, Creator, so God placed all of creation under the curse for sin so that we would again recognize our need for Him – *the existence of injustice, disease, need for wholeness*
      - b. But the way out is not to simply earn the King's favor, it is to come undone of our own power to perform Kingly and to believe the good news that the King has come from Heaven to ransom us from sin's curse and reconcile all things under Himself according to His power and performance – *reveals a God who cares, shows Himself, and works graciously to fix our problem*
      - c. The Cross of Christ is where this ransom/redemption was accomplished and this risen King now reigns over all and is bringing all things together under Himself – *particular revelation of God in history, hope of wholeness in every area of life*
        - i. Spiritually reconciling God and man – inward soul peace w/God
        - ii. Relationally reconciling man to man – social peace
        - iii. Physically reconciling man to creation – peace w/nature
  - (c) More and more I am convinced that these unreached peoples are nearer to us in geography than we used to think
- (2) to respond by grateful faith in Him
  - (a) Our desire in boasting in Jesus is always that those who hear would believe in Him for eternal life
  - (b) God's heart is that people would worship Him by trusting in Him because He knows that He is their greatest joy (we were created for this!)
  - (c) Our goal is not merely informative, nor is it merely apologetic, to show the truth, but it is to call forth repentant faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord
- (3) to live in joyful obedience to Him

- (a) Real, biblical, saving faith in Jesus is trusting in His grace and goodness so much so that we desire to please Him out of grateful joy
- (b) This is not an obedience of mere duty, or of religious motivation (if I obey God will give me what I wanted before I knew Him)
- (c) This obedience is primarily threefold:
  - 1. I respond to his love with my love in return: obedience of love that desires to please and honor the object of our love
    - a. the same reason that we want to fulfill the desires of those whom we love in our human relationships
  - 2. I desire to reflect the glory of His character: obedience of imitation/image-bearing
    - a. we imitate that which we view as good and praiseworthy
    - b. see what people imitate in our society, it reveals what we value as a society
  - 3. I desire to obey Him because I desire to be near to Him: obedience of worship
    - a. I obey God because I want God, not to get things from God
    - b. my disobedience distances me from His presence, just as my hardheartedness distances me from my human relationships
- (d) It is our obedience to our King along with our words of the historic content of the gospel that glorifies God and reveals Jesus to be a King worthy of my complete allegiance.

#### 4. What Can This Look Like at EBF?

- (1) Small groups that are centered on Jesus are full of hope
  - (a) reminding each other of the gospel in our times of doubt
  - (b) speaking words of hope for our neighbors and for this city, not words of cynicism or disdain
  - (c) looking to expand the King's renown throughout all the earth
- (2) Ministries that are centered on Jesus show that in our priorities
  - (a) Worship, prayer, and Scripture are a part of all our times together in some form
  - (b) Our budget shows invested resources toward making the gospel accessible to all peoples
    - 1. currently missions is 3% of our budget
    - 2. I'd like to see it to 10% in the next two years
  - (c) Our times together leave us with a big view of Jesus and His greatness on our minds and from our lips
- (3) Every member is actively using his or her gifts to build up the church into a greater and deeper faith and allegiance to Jesus
  - (a) ALL are involved in some way
    - 1. In our service, we are always pointing to Jesus and reminding each other of the gospel
    - 2. Whether that's through hospitality, expressing mercy when wronged, listening to a hurting friend, or framing in a window to provide warmth for a neighbor.
    - 3. Always with "I love Him because He first loved me"
  - (b) SOME are directly involved in cross-cultural missions, or frontier evangelism
    - 1. Sending out long-term missionaries to unreached people groups
    - 2. Consistently sending out believers on short-term trips to support and encourage our missionaries
    - 3. Reaching out into the unreached peoples within our own city with ministries of mercy and compassion and the hope of the gospel: the King has arrived!

## How Can You Be a Part of This Mission?