

## Turn People’s Life Around

# Lesson 1: What’s missing in life?

### I. What have you got at the end of your life? Or what are you still looking for?

#### 1. Expectation of life

- American Dream
- 5 Dreams: car, wife, son, money, house

#### 2. The emptiness of the heart & soul

- <sup>1</sup> “Isn’t each person consigned to forced labor on earth? Are not his days like those of a hired worker?”
- <sup>2</sup> Like a slave he longs for shade; like a hired worker he waits for his pay.
- <sup>3</sup> So I have been made to inherit months of futility, and troubled nights have been assigned to me.” Job 7:1-3 (CSB)

Alan Tam (HK Singer) :

“People who are poor are happier than the rich, because they still have a hope.”

- “I give up! I will not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath.” (Job 7:16)

J.S. Mill : (An English language philosopher)

"It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied."

### II. Why do I live?

#### 1. An old spiritual question

- “Why did I come out of the womb to see only struggle and sorrow, to end my life in shame?” (Jer 20:18)
- “Why did I come out of the womb to see only trouble and sorrow, and to end my days in shame?” (BSB)
- “Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace? (GNT)

#### 2. An old spiritual struggle

- “But I myself said: I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and futility.” (Isa 49:4)
- “But I said, “I have worked hard for nothing. I have used my strength, but I didn’t accomplish anything” (GW)

- “And I said: “ I have labored toward emptiness. I have consumed my strength without purpose and in vain.” (CPDV)

### 3. The answer to an old question

- “The LORD has made everything for its purpose...” (Prov.16:4, ESV)
- “I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” (Isa 44:2, CEV)
- “The plan of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.” (Ps 33:11 , NASB)

### Why do I live?

- To answer this question, we must start from the ontology, from the root, from the original - where does man come from?
- People never ask and answer this question wrong – Han Feizi told an interesting story (please trust your feet).
- The question of Greek philosophy more than 5,000 years ago is still a puzzle in people's minds today:
  - Where do I come from?
  - Why do I live?
  - Where will I go ?

### God speaks:

#### (1) You were created for God's sake

“For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Col 1:16, NASB)

#### (2) The blueprint of your life is in the Bible

“You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me.” (Jn 5:39)

#### (3) Your presence is to prepare for the eternal future

- “And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” (1Jn 5:11 , MEV)
- “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. (Jn 3:36 , CPDV)
- “So that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.” (Jn 3:15 , NET)

(4) Because God loves me

- “For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn 3:16)
- “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rm 5:8)

What is missing in your life?

- Missing of knowing yourself
- Missing the awareness of what you really need
- Missing God – the home of your soul

# Lesson 2: What are the confusions in our life?

## I. Starting from "Beauty and the Beast"

In 1991, Disney launched the animated "Beauty and the Beast" and followed by a live-action movie version in 2017. In France, there was a young and handsome Prince Adam who lived in a splendid castle and enjoyed a wealthy life, but he was a mean and selfish man. One rainy and windy night, an old woman beggar came to Prince Adam's castle to get out from the rain. She asked the prince to let her exchange a rose for a place of refuge, but the prince disliked this withered old beggar. He refused and laughed at her. The old beggar warned him not to be deceived by appearances, because the most important thing is the real beauty in the heart. Then she showed him her original appearance. The old lady actually was a beautiful enchantress. The prince knelt down and asked for forgiveness, but it was too late, because the enchantress already knew that the prince did not have love nor consideration for others. To punish the selfish prince, the enchantress turned the prince into a beast. His castle's servants fall under the spell of the enchantress also and are turned into moving objects. The powerful magic made them, and the prince removed from the minds of their loved ones. The roses that the enchantress gave to the prince was the key to the spell. If all the petals of the magic rose fell, the prince still didn't learn to love, correct mistakes and find someone who truly loves him, he would be cursed and become a beast forever. Several years passed, the prince already gave up any expectation and hope. Who would love this beast prince? After a few years, Belle's appearance changed the life of the prince. One night, Belle's father was hit by the lightning while he went out and got lost in the forest. He was chased by the wolves and accidentally he stumbled into the forgotten castle. The beast found him and locked him up. Belle also went to the castle after knowing that her father had an accident. She agreed to the terms of the beast: exchange her father's freedom with herself and be imprisoned in the castle. Therefore, the legend of Beauty and the Beast unfolded: Belle was surrounded by wolves in the forest, and the beast went to save her, but was also injured. Belle took care of him and helped the beast by taking care of the wounds, and the two gradually became friends. The beast began to accept himself, and Belle also showed her love for him; the latter part of the plot showed the prince's kindness and the beauty's affirmation of love. At the peak of the plot, an enemy attacked with a gun on the bridge and gave the beast a fatal blow; when the last petal withered, the beast stopped breathing, and the servants were also despaired and unable to move, then turned into permanent objects. Belle wept sadly and hugged the beast to show her loving heart. Later, Agatha appeared as the enchantress and resurrected the rose, lifted the curse on the beast, repaired the broken castle, turned the solidified objects back to human form, and changed the villagers' memory of hatred against the beasts and reunite with their relatives again.

Prince Adam turned back into human form and held a dance party in the kingdom with Belle. At the same time, Belle's father was brought over. Everyone danced and lived happily ever after.

Everyone has the image of a "beast" in their inner world. We cannot escape, and it is not easy to find someone who is willing to tolerate and support ourselves.

**Paul's response:**

"<sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do what is good is with me, but there is no ability to do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good that I want to do, but I practice the evil that I do not want to do." (Romans 7:18-19)

**Paul's cry out:**

"<sup>24</sup>What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! "(Romans 7:24-25)

**II. The Lord Jesus transform your life:**

"<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn," (Isaiah 61:1-2)

1. "Heal the brokenhearted"  
Workplace, family, son
2. " Liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners"  
Sinful, low self-esteem, hate others but also hate themselves, and be taken captive by hatred (elementary students)
3. "The blind can see" (Luke 4:18)  
No hope in life (the tide will come back)
4. "Comfort all those who are sad"
5. "Proclaim the graceful Year of the LORD"

**III. Why the Lord Jesus can?**

1. He loves me

Romans 8:31-39

He helps me because He cares about me. Paul deliberately raised the issue, and use a legal approach, using the example of when someone appeared in court to accuse God's loved one:

- " <sup>31</sup>What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? "
- " <sup>32</sup>He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? "
- " <sup>33</sup>Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. "

- <sup>34</sup>"Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. "
- <sup>35</sup>"Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? "

### Proclaim of victory:

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### 2. He understands us

"... we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin." (Heb.4:15)

### 3. He bears our burden

"Blessed be the Lord! Day after day he bears our burdens; God is our salvation." (Psalm 68:19)

# Lesson 3: Longing for peace and happiness in life

Matthew 11:25-30

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Why did the Lord Jesus make such an invitation?

## I. Scripture background:

The preaching situation of Lord Jesus:

\*"When Jesus had finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns." (11:1)

\*"16 To what should I compare this generation? It's like children sitting in the marketplaces who call out to other children: 17 We played the flute for you, but you didn't dance; we sang a lament, but you didn't mourn!" (11:16-17)

## II. The fact is

### 1. Not everything will go well.

"Then he proceeded to denounce the towns where most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent..." (11:20)

### 2. No one will love everyone.

"18 For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon!' 19 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." (11:18-19)

## III. Facts may not be changed, but hearts can be changed

### 1. "At that time" (11:25)

It is the beginning of a turnaround, start restructuring.... "*Kairos*" refers to a particular time, a sign, speaking of the things that is going to happen. The Lord Jesus changed people from negative emotions such as doubt, unbelief, and obstruction to God the Father.

### 2. Reconstruct my relationship with the Lord

#### (1) "Father!" (11:25)

refers to intimate relation. The name shows the relationship between each other.

"Father" Hebrew ancient hieroglyph is 

a. "Ox Head" stands for power.

b. Another letter is "tent", represents the family live in a tent.

When putting the 2 words together means "power of the tent." As those elevated pillars firmly hold up the entire tent, Father is the One who stands to support the whole family.

Hong Kong artist Andy Lau wrote in Facebook:

When the wind is tired, the mountains can block.

When the clouds are tired, they lie in the sky.

When the leaves are tired, the roots can hold on.

When the river is tired, the sea can fill it.

But we are tired, what can we do?

When you are tired, please comfort yourself.

(2) "Lord of Heaven and Earth!"(11:25)

Since the creation of man, they have been confused about their role. Man is made to be owned, not to own. Man is made to be a steward, not a master.

"God said, "... They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.'"(Genesis1:26)

Our Lord Jesus can be angry with God the Father. You trick me. It was you who sent me to come → everything should go well and smooth, everything will be prosperous → but no one trust me → how do you react → discouraged, disappointed, angry.

God has absolute sovereignty: "Yes, Father, because this was your good pleasure." (11:26)

(3) "I praise you"(11:25)

- With praise for mercy and honor to God. The Lord Jesus was not influenced by the environment.
- Regardless of how indifferent people respond to the gospel of salvation, God's existence and attributes never change.
- The basic meaning of the original scripture is "declare, confess," and it is used on the attributes of God to talk about His kindness, love, etc.! When we are discouraged and disappointed, praise and be thankful!

#### IV. The dilemma of facts can be transformed

##### 1. "Come"

- "Come to me". The sentence used by Rabbi; the sentence syntax was used when the Lord called his disciples: "Come follow me."
- "I will give you rest." should be translated as "rest".
- Hong Kong McDull Philosophy: "Racing to go far is not racing to go fast!"



## 2. "Take up"

- "Take my yoke."
- "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."(11:30)
- "Easy" means suitable, fit. Mom buys a shirt.

## 3. "Learn"

- "Learn from Me"
- "I am lowly and humble in heart"
- "Lowly" is obedience to God, no grudge against injustice, no revenge in your heart.
- "Humble" means respecting each other, not to elevate oneself.
- "You have these things ... infants.": To be innocent like an infant who has yet to be taught badly by the world's knowledge.  
Only wanting parents in their heart and relying on them wholeheartedly.

Use the heart of an “infant” to experience the peace and happiness that you have never experienced before.

# Lesson 4: Restore the soul in the next second

Luke 19:1-10

## Jewish Story: Fox and Vineyard

A fox came outside of a vineyard, and the attractive fragrance completely conquered it, and it tried every means to enter the vineyard. Unfortunately, this vineyard is surrounded by high walls with only a small hole. The fox struggled to get into the hole, but it was too fat to get in. The fox fasted for three days until he was so skinny that he finally entered the vineyard. It saw and fully enjoyed the delicious grapes. A few days later, the fox was going to leave. He came to the entrance of the hole and found that because of the delicious food, his belly was too big to leave. So, the fox had to fast for another three days, until he was so skinny that he could get out of the vineyard from the hole. Fox stood in front of the cave, looking up at the vineyard walls, the smell of the delicious food, and sighed: "Beautiful and attractive vineyard, you are delicious and smell great, but what did you give me? How do I go in and how do I come out?"

### I. What is the need of our soul

#### 1. Maslow's hierarchy of needs



#### 2. Zacchaeus's response

He knew what he really needed. The most painful thing is when people do not know where the problem is, such as illness, car, house leaks, relationships, etc.

(1) Physiological and security needs-not lacking.

"A man named Zacchaeus was there; he was a chief tax collector and was rich."(19:2)

(2) The need for belonging and love and respect-all lacking

- At that time, people had to pay for their official position, so he had to overcharge.

· **Who is leading your life (car accident of a family and a monkey)?**

A family of 4 and a monkey went traveling. On the way back, they got into accident. All family members died and only the monkey left alive. All police and investigators tried to find out how the accident happened. What was each one of them doing at the time of accident? So, they found a zoologist to communicate with the monkey. Zoologist asked the monkey what the sons were doing. The monkey did a motion that they were playing with their phones and playing games. Then he asked what the mom was doing. The monkey did a motion of putting on the makeup. Then he asked about the dad. The monkey pretended that the dad was drunk. Then the zoology asked the monkey what it was doing. It showed him the motion of driving.

Who is driving your car in your life?

**(3) His soul is in need**

**"<sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. <sup>4</sup>So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way." (19:3-4)**

A hunter lived in a hut on the Mount Alps. The hunter raised an eagle to help him hunt; he also raised a parrot and taught the parrot to talk in his spare time. The hunter also liked to play with the parrot when he had time.

One day in the spring, the hunter prepares the meat of the prey, and plans to exchange some necessities for a living. The hunter happily took the eagle and the parrot to the market. But due to the rush, the hunter slipped and fell on the way. He was fine but the eagle that had stood on his shoulder was scared and hurriedly flew up. The sharp claws accidentally scratched all over the hunter's face.

The hunter hardly went down the mountain, and he rarely saw his friends. He only met them few times a year. Before meeting with his friends, the hunter was so disfigured that he couldn't help being furious. The hunter complained to the parrot criticizing what the eagle had done to him.

The parrot said: "The eagle always looks so fierce. Although he can help you hunt, it is you that caused this. I think it is better to raise a few chickens. The chickens are not only gentle, but they can also reproduce when you hunt. Then you can kill two birds with one stone."

The hunter heard it, and was persuaded, so he exchanged the eagle for five chickens at the market. Back on the mountain, the hunter followed what the parrot suggested, hunted and raised chickens.

Mount Alps was just too big. Without the help of the eagle, hunters couldn't grasp the whereabouts of their prey, so there was no harvest throughout the summer and autumn. When winter came, the chickens were not used to the mountain climate. Not only that they did not breed as scheduled but died one by one in the harsh winter.

It was indeed very difficult for the hunter to survive the winter by himself. There was no way for him to take care of the parrot. As a result, the parrot could not survive the severe winter.

When people encounter problems, they always ask the opinions of people close to them.

The vast majority of people who are asked are usually in line with their own minds, perhaps unintentionally slandering, but they always use their own mentality, ability, and experience to explain the mentality, ability, and experience of others. The parrot in the story may have no intention of saying bad things about the eagle, but after all, the thinking of the parrot is based on a parrot. The mentality, the ability and the experience are based on the parrot. In any case, it is a parrot and can never be an eagle.

So, when asking for opinions on eagles, you should ask another eagle, not a parrot.

Perhaps the parrot is someone you trust, but what you get is just the parrot's opinion.

In fact, the human eye may not be clear, may not necessarily have the ability to judge people around him. Who is the eagle? Who is the parrot? Sometimes we thought we found an eagle and discuss important things with him. But later we found that ... it turns out that the advice provided is in fact totally nonsense.

After inflicting heavy losses on ourselves, we came to resent the other party's bad opinions, but we didn't know how to reflect on our own folly and ignorance.

We should understand that for a person to be successful, he must seek the wisdom of eagles. When he encountered problems, he will certainly base on his own experience, and then listen to opinions from all sides to adjust for his own blind spots or mistakes. After combining the opinions of the eagles and parrots at all levels, he will make a conclusion and implement it. He will not blindly follow unilateral opinions and act blindly.

## II. The Lord Jesus rebuilds the human heart

"When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.””(19:5)

### 1. The Lord Jesus takes the initiative to approach you

" When Jesus came to that place" original is τόπος, which means vacancy or opportunity.

He created an opportunity for you, just as if you come tonight, the Lord Jesus gives you an empty seat, an opportunity.

"Zacchaeus"-what a friendly way to call a person.

"Hurry and come down "-understand his needs.

"Today it is necessary for me to stay at your house."- contact without any barrier.

### 2. Lord Jesus activates your life

#### (1) Regained joy

" So he came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully."(19:6)

#### (2) Return to the home again

" But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look,...””(19:8)

#### (3) Finding the true self again

"<sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.” <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.””(19:7-8)

### III. The Lord Jesus declares your identity

" "Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus told him, "because he too is a son of Abraham""(19:9)

#### 1. Old question from 5000 years ago

- (1) Where do people come from?
- (2) What is the meaning of people's life?
- (3) Where will I go?

#### 2. The answer to the old question

" "Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus told him, "because he too is a son of Abraham""(19:9)

"But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name"(John 1:12)

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."(19:10)

# Lesson 5: Find the hometown of the soul

Luke12:13-21

## I. A dreamed life

### 1. Entrepreneur

"A rich man's land was very productive." (12:16)

### 2. Dreamer

<sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops?

<sup>18</sup>I will do this,' he said... " (12:17-18a)

### 3. Planner

"... 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there.'"(12:18b)

### 4. Financial Expert

" Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years...." (12:19a)

### 5. The hedonist

"... Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!" (12:19b)

## II. The awakened life

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared — whose will they be?'"(12:20)

"Fuzzy people"(Lü's version)

### 1. People are "ignorant"

#### (1) "I" surpassed everything

"I" and "my" was used 5 times and lost the meaning of existence.

A Chinese novelist and short story writer Mo Yan: Chinese Character "I" 「我」

One day the character "I" missed a stroke on the top and became the word "find". In order to find the stroke, "I" asked many people, what does that stroke mean? Businessmen say it's money, politicians say it's power, celebrities say it's fame, soldiers say it's honor, workers say it's wages, and students say it's grades...

Finally, "life" tells "me" that stroke is: health and happiness. Without them, everything is meaningless!

#### Steve Jobs's famous quote before he died

I also asked myself many times in the middle of the night, if everything in my lifetime has lost value after being revalued by death, what do I need most now?

The money and reputation of my life can give me nothing.

I now understand that as long as people have enough wealth in their lifetime, they should pursue other things that have nothing to do with wealth.

Picture of life (from birth to death)



- (2) Man is a commodity
- (3) Money is more important than life.

During the wars, everyone fled. A person prayed to God. God told him He would bless him and told him to take a bag of sweet potatoes with him. Another rich man brought a bag of gold coins and ask this person to exchange his bag of gold coins for the bag of sweet potatoes. The man with the bag of sweet potatoes agreed and ended up dying of hunger. He was upset after he died and blamed God. God told him it was his fault for making the wrong choice. → He asked God to let him live again: God asked the man: Do you choose to have 10,000 people support you, or you support 10,000 people. He chose to have 10,000 people supported him. So, he became a beggar, otherwise he would have become a rich man.

- (4) HK watch commercial slogan:  
"I don't care about forever; I only care about once owned."

(Life is like a glass bottle, what to put in first?)



2. People are "short-lived"

" This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared — whose will they be? " (12:20)

" Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will leave this life. "(Job1:20)

The clock in the paper box



A person heard the ticking sound from a box. He asked what’s in the box. But the answer was nothing in the box. This person said there had to be a clock inside. The other person said that’s impossible. He only saw the box. How would he know there’s a clock in the box? This person said he heard it and knowing that the clock is working even he didn’t see it.

Our body is like the box, there’s a clock (our soul) inside. Even we don’t see it, but we know it’s there.

3. Seeing life from God's eyes

- (1) Life has a purpose

- "Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because one’s life is not in the abundance of his possessions."(12:15)
- "Think carefully about this. Don’t be greedy. Don’t try to get more things than you need. You can’t get real life from the things you own, even if you are rich." (PEV)

- (2) Life has eternity.

"You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared — whose will they be?"(12:20)

Man has eternity → the Lord Jesus came.

"Jesus said:" I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."" (John14:6)

The four wives' metaphor

Once upon a time, there lived a king who had four wives. The king got seriously ill and was on his death bed.

Afraid to venture into the afterlife alone, he asked his fourth wife whom he loved the most and bought her diamond, gold and elegant clothing — “Would you die with me? And go with me to the afterlife?” The fourth wife replied with a sorry saying she can't do that and walked away.

He also loved his third wife and was very proud and would show her off to neighboring kingdoms. He called on his third wife and asked the same question — “Would you accompany me to the afterlife?” The third wife replied that she loved her life too much and she cannot go with him and also that she would remarry on his death.

The second wife has always been there for him in the times of his need. So he asked her would she accompany him in the afterlife? The second wife apologetically replied that she would not be able to help him this time but would arrange his funeral and would be there for his funeral.

A voice called out and said that — “I will leave with you and follow you wherever you go, even if it is to the afterlife”. The king looked and it was his first wife. And this was the wife he took care of the least. He felt embarrassed and said that I should have taken a better care of you and given you more attention when I was alive.

The moral of this story is that we all have four wives.

Our fourth wife is our body. We like to decorate it with nice clothes, sexy hairstyle, nice jewelry but in the end it cannot follow us to the afterlife.

Our third wife is our possessions. We spend so much time gathering our possessions — Car, house, guitar, DSLR camera, gold. But in the end, they can't follow us to the afterlife. It will be given to other people and divided. Just like the third wife remarrying.

The second wife are our friends and family. We trust them, they're always there for us in times of need. But the farthest they can go is the funeral and send us off.

Our first wife represents our soul. We usually neglect taking care of our soul. That is the thing that will follow us to the afterlife.



# Lesson 6: The Church is My Home

1 Timothy 3:15b

When we see a school, what do you think of?

When we see an Italian museum, what do you think of?

When we see a hospital, what do you think of?

When we see a church, what do you think of?

## I. Looking at the church from home

### 1. Home

- Not a building
- It is a place where members gather together and love each other.

### 2. Church

- Not a building
- For the glory of God, we are moving towards a multicultural church family, and we will worship together with joy serve and win the world.

## II. The church is...

Those who believe in and accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior, they gather together:

### 1. Serving God

"Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." (Colossians 3: 16)

### 2. Serving believers

"<sup>12</sup>To equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness." (Ephesians 4:12-13)

### 3. Serving the world

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

## III. The church will...

### 1. Follow the Great Commission

**because...**

"Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth.""(Matthew 28:18)

- There is assurance of the Lord Jesus.
- There is power of the Lord Jesus.

"<sup>19</sup>Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. "  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

- (1) " Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations"  
- make everyone a student of the Lord Jesus - to preach the gospel.
- (2) "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit "  
- make them belong to the family of the Lord Jesus and God - to live the church life.
- (3) "Teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you "  
- teach everyone to know the Bible and obey - continue to learn.

## 2. Live out the Great Commandment

"<sup>37</sup>He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the greatest and most important command. <sup>39</sup>The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands."" (Matthew 22:37-40)

- (1) " Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. "
- (2) " Love your neighbor as yourself"

Combining the above-mentioned Great Commission and Great Commandments, we know God's five major purposes for creating mankind:

1. God made a plan to make me live to please the Lord - Worship
2. God molds me and wants me to live for God's family - Fellowship
3. God created me and wanted me to live like Christ - Discipleship
4. God shaped me and wanted me to live to serve the Lord and people - Serve
5. God established me and wanted me to live to spread the love of the Lord - Evangelism