

imagination

Imagine a church that actually lives out authentically what they say they believe. Furthermore, imagine a church that not only believes what it says—and lives it out—but also believes the right things. (The fusion of belief and action that betters life on this planet) Just imagine if such a community was alive and well in 21st century America.

But when we dream of such a place, what might it look like; what would be important to them? It would seem likely that what would be important in and to such a church would be what is important to Jesus; since you'd expect the followers of Christ to value the values of the one they follow. So what really matters to the Leader of the Church? Simply put his Father, people, and mission.

Now you might ask, "Can you be more specific than his Father, people, and mission?" I think so. Throughout the life of Jesus and his followers in the formative years of the church, a simple creed was on display: love God, love each other, and serve the world. This is what mattered then, and what matters now.

Our dream, our vision, is to partner with Jesus Christ, the church past and present, and each other at MTZ in carrying out a simple mission: TO BE AND MAKE DISCIPLES THAT LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER, AND SERVE THE WORLD. Simple isn't it?

Not so simple to apply, but it doesn't mean we aren't trying with passion and dedication to believe in this creed and actually live our lives by it.

Imagine such a church. Just imagine what our future could be like if we passionately and seriously pursue our mission of following Jesus together as disciples. Getting there will be challenging, and we may not be there yet, but it's where we are going. We hope you will come along with us.

So we challenge each other and we invite you to a simple process of moving toward spiritual maturity by the call to do four things:

- (1) Get connected to God by coming to worship services and fall in love with God and his Word;
- (2) Get connected to each other by coming to a small group to love others in community and to grow spiritually;
- (3) Get connected to ministry seeking to impact others;
- (4) Finally, Get connected to the lost by reaching out to others through investing in their lives and inviting them to Christ and the Church.

This is the kind of church we dream about and are seeking to experience. We hope you will come along and dream with us.

Mike Soltis