



PIONEER PATHWAYS: NEW MEMBER 'S CLASS

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the first step on your journey of being a vital part of Pioneer Church. The purpose of this class is to teach you what the “DNA” of our church is. We believe that a church is a living, moving, and changing organism in God’s Kingdom. Your investment in this body will grow and change the dynamic of our church for the better. It is the prayer of the leadership of Pioneer Church that you come away from this class with not only a thorough understanding of what it means to be a member of Pioneer Church, but a white-hot passion to actively advance the purpose of Pioneer Church in this world! Again, we cannot stress how vitally important your participation is in the success and effectiveness of Pioneer Church. We’re so excited to take this journey with you!

The information in this packet contains all the details of what makes Pioneer Church a Biblical Church, and how we all fit together as that Church to accomplish the purpose God has for us. We believe what the Bible says in **Proverbs 29:18a**: *“Where there is no vision, the people perish...”*; therefore this packet outlines WHO we are—HOW we are structured—and WHAT we are determined to accomplish for King Jesus and His Kingdom

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS CLASS:

We have divided this information into 4 sections: an introduction which defines WHAT a Church is and then 3 sections which we conveniently refer to as KP³. This is a Vision/Strategy Hybrid, which outlines the three spheres of life in the Kingdom of God. The format of this course contains fill in the blank questions and statements to help you stay engaged in the material and prompt any questions we can answer for you. If you miss a blank or are unclear on a point, please feel free to raise your hand and ask us to repeat. That’s what this class is all about!

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

Upon completion of our PIONEER PATHWAYS membership class, you should have a clear understanding of your Salvation and it’s importance to church membership; be able to articulate what the Mission, Vision, and Strategy of Pioneer Church is; and identify how you fit in here as a new part of this body.

SECTION 1: WHO ARE WE?

It may go without saying, but Pioneer Church is just that... a Church. This sets us apart from any other form of gathering on earth in that what brings us together is purely an act of God. In the Bible, there is a specific term used for this gathering:

- CHURCH = **EKKLESIA**: A Gathering of **CALLED OUT ONES**

Jesus was the first person to use this word when referring to the gathering of believers in **Matthew 16**. This is a very important passage in the life of Pioneer Church.

- **Matthew 16:18 (ESV)** *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my **church** (ekklesia—called out ones), and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WE MUST ANSWER IS WHAT DOES “CALLED OUT” MEAN?

- THE PHRASE CALLED OUT REFERS TO A **TRANSFER** FROM ONE DOMAIN OR **KINGDOM** TO ANOTHER

Colossians 1:13 (ESV) *He has delivered us from the domain **of darkness** and transferred us to the **kingdom of his beloved Son***

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who **called you out** of darkness into his **marvelous light**.*

- WE BELIEVE EVERY PERSON ALIVE IS A CITIZEN OF ONE OF THESE 2 KINGDOMS: THE KINGDOM OF **DARKNESS** AND THE KINGDOM OF **GOD**

This transfer from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of God only happens through one way: **SALVATION**

*****WE BELIEVE IT IS ONLY THROUGH OUR FAITH IN THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS CHRIST THAT WE ARE TRANSFERRED FROM THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD*****

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV) *For by grace you have been saved **through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Romans 4:5 (ESV) *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is counted as righteousness***

- SO, WE DEFINE CHURCH AS: THE **GATHERING** OR **BODY** OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT OF THE **DOMINION OF DARKNESS** INTO THE **KINGDOM OF GOD** THROUGH OUR **FAITH** IN THE **GOSPEL** OF JESUS CHRIST.

*****To be clear, membership into the Body of Pioneer Church is NOT a **MEANS** of salvation, rather a **SIGN** of salvation. Membership is obtained only through a genuine profession of saving faith by those seeking to become part of Pioneer Church.*****

SECTION 2: OUR VISION/STRATEGY

As stated in the introduction of this class, we believe where there is no vision, people perish. The actual meaning of that verse is that people “cast off restraint”—They go their own way and make church what they think it ought to be. But God has given us a very good blueprint for what He wants His church to be, as well as what He wants us to accomplish. The revelation of these things is called Vision. We want you to know that the Vision of Pioneer Church is God’s Vision, not our own. We believe God has created and is building Pioneer Church to accomplish this specific vision, for this specific location, for this specific time.

When we think of Vision, we can think of it like a journey from one place to another.

- THE VISION OF PIONEER CHURCH IS: TO BE A GATHERING OF KINGDOM PEOPLE WITH KINGDOM PASSIONS WHO FULFILL JESUS’ KINGDOM PURPOSE.

THE KINGDOM:

If it hasn’t become obvious by now, Pioneer Church places a lot of emphasis on the Kingdom of God. The reason is because the Kingdom is where we were created to be. It’s where our King resides, and where we will be with Him eternally one day. Before we unpack the THREE AREAS OF KINGDOM LIFE, we need to understand WHAT the Kingdom of God is. Most people would refer to God’s Kingdom as Heaven, where His throne is. However, the Kingdom of God is not limited by proximity to His Throne.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry, one of His main purposes was pronouncement of His coming Kingdom. Jesus’ primary objective was to initiate the entrance of the Kingdom into the world, not through a physical throne, but through the salvation of people.

Matthew 4:17,23 (ESV) *From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”-- And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.*

- THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS PRESENT WHEREVER HE HAS AUTHORITY, RULE, AND REIGN

Psalm 24:1 (NLT) *The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.*

One of the most important places the Kingdom of God presents itself is in the lives of those who have become followers of Jesus. As Jesus rules and reigns in our hearts as Lord, we find that His Kingdom is displayed in us.

- THE CHURCH IS THE PHYSICAL, EARTHLY REPRESENTATION OF GOD’S KINGDOM.

Luke 17:20-21 (ESV) *Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”*

PIONEER CHURCH LIVES IN AND REFLECTS THE KINGDOM OF GOD THROUGH 3 DISTINCT SPHERES:

SPHERE 1: KINGDOM PEOPLE

Our life in the Kingdom of God begins with our acceptance into this Kingdom. We cannot gain entrance into the Kingdom of God through our own efforts.

- IT IS ONLY THROUGH SURRENDERING MY LIFE TO THE RULE AND REIGN OF KING JESUS THAT I CAN BECOME A KINGDOM PERSON

Mark 10:15 (ESV) Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

(ILLUSTRATION OF THE DEPENDENCE A CHILD HAS ON THEIR FATHER)

- THROUGH MY FAITH IN JESUS, I BECOME A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN WHILE STILL ON EARTH

Philippians 3:20 (ESV) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

(EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT OF THE “ALREADY, NOT YET” PRINCIPLE)

- THIS NEW CITIZENSHIP LEADS ME TO LIVE WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE MIDST OF LIFE’S ISSUES

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV) For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- THIS ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE CAUSES ME TO CONDUCT MY LIFE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

Philippians 1:27 (ESV) Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel

5 MARKS OF BEING A KINGDOM PERSON:

(As observed in Acts 2 and affirmed by other scriptures)

1. OBEDIENCE TO JESUS THROUGH BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:18-19 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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

*****For answers to the necessity of Baptism by immersion, please refer to Pioneer Church’s position paper on Baptism*****

2. AN ACTIVE AND GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS (DISCIPLESHIP)

Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

4 SPECIFIC WAYS THIS HAPPENS:

- **THE WORD**—Daily time at home, weekly study together
- **PRAYER**—Daily time of sharing with and listening to God
- **SMALL GROUPS**—Seeking true fellowship (koinonia) with others who are walking the same journey as me
- **CONTINUAL RETURNING TO THE CROSS**—regular participation in the spiritual preparation of and observance of the Lord’s Supper with my brothers and sisters

3. A STRONG DESIRE FOR UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Acts 2:44 (ESV) And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

*****A SPECIFIC NOTE ON THE NECESSITY OF BIBLICAL UNITY WITHIN DISAGREEMENTS AT PIONEER CHURCH:**

While Pioneer Church strives to create an environment of Unity in the Gospel among its members, we understand that inevitably disagreements and differences of opinions will certainly arise. It is in these times that Pioneer Church takes a strong position as to the manner in which we address disagreements and offenses among the members of our church. It is imperative that each member of Pioneer Church understand that there is no room in our Body for sinful gossip, backbiting, or bad reports towards or about any fellow brother or sister.

We will strive at all costs to face disagreements and offenses in a loving, Biblical manner that includes gentle confrontation, truthful admonition, and a process of forgiveness and restoration. To put it plainly, we will always seek to proactively talk **TO** one another about the issues that arise among our body. We will neither condone nor perpetuate an environment of talking **ABOUT** one another. The Bible takes this issue very seriously, and we do as well. Few things disrupt the harmony and effectiveness of a church more than dissension. It is a hill we will die on at Pioneer Church. Therefore, we ask you to commit with the leadership of Pioneer Church to actively go to war against the sins of **Gossip (Proverbs 20:19)**, **Back biting (Galatians 5:15)**, and **Sowing Discord among brothers and sisters (Proverbs 6:16-19)**

We encourage the study of the following passages of Scripture in regard to this issue:

Matthew 5:23-25; Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 5:15-6:1; Ephesians 4:15, 25-32; Hebrews 12:14-15

4. A SACRIFICIAL LOVE FOR OTHERS; ESPECIALLY IN THE CHURCH

Acts 2:45 (ESV) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and **distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.**

John 13:34-35 (ESV) A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another**: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**

1 John 3:16-18 (ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, **and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.** But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth

5. A COMMITMENT TO CONSISTENT PARTICIPATION IN CORPORATE WORSHIP

Acts 2:46 (ESV) And day by day, **attending the temple together** and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts

Hebrews 10:24-25 (ESV) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together,** as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

SPHERE 2: KINGDOM PASSIONS

- KINGDOM PASSION IS ALL ABOUT SAVORING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE KING

When we think of the word Passion, we usually don't associate it with our relationship with God. The world has hijacked this word and perverted it to a large degree. However, the Bible teaches us that Passion is a very important part of our relationship with our King as His Kingdom People.

WHAT IS PASSION?

Webster's Dictionary defines Passion as: A FEELING OF INTENSE ENTHUSIASM TOWARDS OR COMPELLING DESIRE FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.

(ILLUSTRATION OF FOOTBALL FANS)

As we come to truly grasp the reality of living as citizens of God's Kingdom, we find that God desires to rule and reign over every part of our lives. We find that He demands a relationship with us that goes deeper than just an intellectual faith. God desires to draw out a love and commitment for Him that encompasses our whole being.

- GOD DESIRES FOR US TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL OF OUR BEING

Our Passions and desires—the things that we find joy and emotional expression in are part of who God made us to be. Being His Kingdom Person means that all that we are is being transformed by our relationship with Him.

WHERE KINGDOM PASSION ORIGINATES

- GOD CREATED US TO BE PEOPLE OF PASSION

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (ESV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Hebrew word for Soul: NEPESH= PASSION/DESIRE/MOTIVES

- OUR GOD IS A PASSIONATE GOD

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

IT IS A HUMBLING AND OVERWHELMING JOY TO UNDERSTAND THIS TRUTH THAT THE GOD WHO IS WORTHY AND DEMAND OF ALL WORSHIP AND PRAISE, DELIGHTS IN US AND SINGS OVER US! THIS WILL STIR OUR AFFECTIONS LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN LIFE!!!

- THE GOSPEL ITSELF IS A RESULT OF GOD'S PASSION FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF CREATION TO HIMSELF

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

- THE POINT IS THAT GOD LOVES AND RULES OVER US WITH PASSION; THEREFORE, WE SHOULD NOT FORSAKE OR REPRESS THE GOD-GIVEN PASSIONS THAT ARE IN US. RATHER, WE ARE TO PUT THEM TO USE FOR HIS GLORY AND THE BENEFIT OF HIS CHURCH

2-FOLD FOCUS OF KINGDOM PASSION:

FOCUS #1: TO GLORIFY OUR KING THROUGH WORTHY OFFERINGS OF SERVICE AND WORSHIP

Romans 12:1 (ESV) I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship

- HAVING KINGDOM PASSION HELPS ME SEE MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE KINGDOM AS OPPORTUNITIES NOT OBLIGATIONS
 - IN MY SERVING—**Psalm 100:2 (ESV)** Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
 - IN MY GIVING—**2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)** Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*****Pioneer Church believes that we glorify God by obeying the Biblical principle of tithing. This principle teaches that we are to give the first 10% of our income back to God through the church for the use of Kingdom Ministry. We believe that tithing is just as much an act of worship as singing. Tithing shows that we acknowledge that all we have is from God and belongs to God; therefore, we are willing to obey God by giving back to Him what He asks. Tithing also helps protect our hearts from the love of money which can so easily ensnare us and lead us into many different sins. (Mal. 3:8-10; 1 Timothy 6:10)**

- IN MY WORSHIP—**Psalm 122:1 (ESV)** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- THIS FOCUS COMBATS THE SIN OF MEDIOCRITY AND PROMOTES AN ATTITUDE OF EXCELLENCE

Colossians 3:23-24 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

1 Peter 4:11b (ESV) in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Our desire at Pioneer Church is to fight against the sin of Mediocrity in all we do. Therefore, we strive for an environment of Excellence in everything we do. This isn't for showmanship or from prideful motives, but in remembering who we are serving. He is our King and worthy of the very best we can offer Him. Those who are passionate in their service and worship to the King will exude excellence in their efforts.

- I MUST BE WILLING TO **LAY ASIDE** ANY PASSIONS THAT WOULD **CONFLICT** WITH THE GLORY OF OUR KING

Philippians 3:7-8 (NLT) *I once thought these things were valuable, but **now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.** ⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ*

FOCUS #2: TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CHURCH AND HER MISSION

God created us with different personalities, different abilities, and different interests. These all serve to show the creativity of our King and how He desires His church to be diverse and healthy through the eager use of those passions

Romans 12:4-8 (ESV) *For as in one body we have many members, **and the members do not all have the same function**, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:** if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

- PAUL: **GIFTS OF GRACE** → PIONEER CHURCH: **KINGDOM PASSIONS**

*****Pioneer Church strongly urges each member to take a Free Spiritual Gifts Inventory to help you identify the Spiritual gifts God has given to you.*****

3 WAYS MY KINGDOM PASSIONS BENEFIT THE BODY:

1. MY KINGDOM PASSIONS PROMOTE UNITY AMONG MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (ESV) *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.***

2. MY KINGDOM PASSIONS HELP FULFILL THE NEEDS OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

1 Corinthians 12:21-25 (ESV) ***The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."** On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, **but that the members may have the same care for one another.***

3. MY KINGDOM PASSIONS SERVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

1 Peter 4:10-11 (ESV) *As each has received a gift, **use it to serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God*

supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

BEWARE!!!

WHEN I DON'T USE MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE CHURCH, 2 **DETRIMENTAL** THINGS HAPPEN:

- **THE CHURCH SUFFERS**
(ILLUSTRATION OF AMPUTEE VS. AMPUTATED LIMB)
- **GOD IS ROBBED OF GLORY**

HOW DO I PUT MY KINGDOM PASSIONS TO USE AT PIONEER CHURCH?

Once you have discerned the passions and gifts God has gifted to you, we urge you to find a place of service in one of the 5 main areas of Pioneer Church:

- **WORSHIP** (Tyler and Annie-Kate Snavely)
- **PIONEER BABIES/KIDS** (Laura Easter)
- **PIONEER COMMUNITY** (Shane and Ashley Ashby)
- **CONNECTIONS/HOSPITALITY**
- **MISSIONAL OUTREACH** (Justin Price)

*****Pioneer Church also offers free personality tests you can take to help you find your passions and where you can serve the Lord with Excellence and Enthusiasm. *****

SPHERE 3: KINGDOM PURPOSE

The saying is true: each person was made on purpose for a purpose. This can also be said of the church. When Kingdom People come together and put their Kingdom Passions to use for the Glory of the King and the Benefit of one another, a Kingdom Purpose is fulfilled. But what is this Kingdom Purpose?

- THE KINGDOM PURPOSE OF PIONEER CHURCH IS TO **SHOW THE REALITIES OF THE KINGDOM TO THE WORLD AROUND US**

The Church was created by Jesus to be a beacon in the world. The Gospel is a message meant to be told. Our faith is not a PRIVATE FAITH but is meant to be shared with the world. Therefore:

We must be clear that the purpose of Pioneer Church is established by the Head of the Church who is Jesus Christ. **No church has the luxury of creating its own purpose while still being called the Bride of Christ.** The good news is that Jesus gave us the purpose of His Church and we will conclude this course by walking through what that purpose is and how we fulfill that purpose.

- JESUS GAVE THE CHURCH THE **COMMAND** TO GO MAKE **DISCIPLES**

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- THE MISSION OF PIONEER CHURCH IS TO BE **INFLUENCERS** FOR THE KINGDOM THROUGH GOSPEL **DECLARATION** AND **DEMONSTRATION**

Acts 20:18b-21 (ESV) You yourselves know **how I lived among you** the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not **shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable**, and **teaching you** in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks **of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- GOSPEL **DECLARATION**: WHAT WE **SAY** ABOUT **JESUS** AND HIS **GOSPEL**
- GOSPEL **DEMONSTRATION**: HOW WE **SHOW** THE **CHARACTERISTICS** OF THE GOSPEL BY THE **WAY** WE LIVE

PIONEER CHURCH MODEL FOR EVANGELISM:

(adapted from Dr. Craig Childs' discipleship program: The Church At War)

There are 3 levels of Evangelism we strive to practice:

1. INTENTIONALITY WITH MY LIFESTYLE

Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV) *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

- I SHOULD SEEK TO LIVE MY LIFE WITH "GOSPEL SATURATION" AROUND UNBELIEVERS

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV) *Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (ESV) *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.*

(ROACH VS MOTH ILLUSTRATION)

- SOMETIMES THE GOSPEL MUST BE SHOWN BEFORE IT CAN BE SHARED

1 Peter 2:12 (ESV) *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

2. THE POWER OF MY TESTIMONY

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect*

- THE POWER OF MY TESTIMONY OFTEN DEPENDS ON HOW RELEVANT IT IS

Mark 5:19b-20 (ESV) *Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.*

Make no mistake, the regeneration of a sin-filled, wicked heart is nothing short of a miracle, but we must remember that our conversion is just the BEGINNING of our relationship with Jesus. If there is no Gospel transformation after our conversion, then we need to evaluate our relationship with Christ. The validity of our testimony comes as we share what God is doing in our life right now. That can be evidenced better than a conversion story that took place years ago.

3. THE **BOLDNESS** AND **CLARITY** OF MY GOSPEL **DECLARATION**

Romans 10:14,17 (ESV) *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? **And how are they to hear without someone preaching?**¹⁷ So faith comes from **hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.***

2 Timothy 1:8,12 (NLT) *So **never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.** I am not ashamed of it, **for I know the one in whom I trust,** and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.*

(ILLUSTRATION OF KNOWING ABOUT SOMEONE VS. KNOWING SOMEONE)

The Bible is clear that making Disciples requires an accurate articulation of the Gospel message. We can and should show the evidence of the Gospel to others, but as Paul said: Faith comes by Hearing the Word of God. Therefore, in order to effectively fulfill our Kingdom Purpose, we must know the Gospel and be able to share it clearly with others.

ONE FINAL THOUGHT ON OUR FULFILLING JESUS' KINGDOM PURPOSE:

It is the desire of Pioneer Church to be a Body of Christ that reflects the Heart—Character—and Mission of our King as accurately as possible. In our effort to reach our community, county, state, country, and world with the Gospel, we do so with the understanding that there is a greater glory at stake in our efforts. A glory that goes beyond evangelism and church growth. It is a Glory revealed in Jesus' Words in:

Matthew 16:18b (ESV) *on this rock **I will build my church,** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*

This promise made by Jesus was a declaration that His church would not only succeed in His mission but would stand as a living testimony of His Eternal Purpose to reconcile all creation to Himself. **WE BELIEVE GOD'S OVERARCHING PURPOSE IN THE BUILDING AND COMMISSIONING OF HIS CHURCH IS TO SHOW THE WORLD THE GREATNESS OF HIS GLORY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL DISPLAYED IN THE LIVES OF THOSE CHANGED BY THAT GOSPEL.** We arrive at this conclusion based upon Paul's words in:

Ephesians 1:3-12 (ESV) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **to the praise of his glorious grace,** with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ **might be to the praise of his glory.***

This is what we yearn to see happen through the life and ministry of Pioneer Church and what we hope has been conveyed through this Philosophy of Ministry document. We pray as you join your life to this Body that this will be your desire as well.