

ENGAGE ministries

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Titus 3:4-8 NASB

“But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to ENGAGE in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.”
--the Apostle Paul

Definitions of “en·gage”:¹

- π To occupy, attract or involve someone’s interest or attention
- π To cause someone to become involved in
- π To pledge or enter into a contract to do something
- π To reserve in advance
- π To participate or become involved in
- π To establish a meaningful contact or connection with
- π To move into position so as to come into operation
- π To cause to do
- π To bring together preparatory to fighting
- π To enter into conflict or combat with

Our Mission: To engage Christ, the church, culture and the world in truth and love, allowing Christ to reveal His grace to others through our lives of obedience and faithfulness.

Our Vision:

- π ENcounter - to engage the youth with Jesus Christ and His church so that they might come to know and understand what Christianity is.
- π Grow - to engage the youth with leaders, adults and peers who fervently love Jesus Christ for the purpose of developing their Christian belief(s) and faith, eventually calling them to a covenant commitment to Jesus.
- π Account - to engage the lifestyles of youth by calling them to a higher standard of living, thinking, dreaming, goal setting and decision-making as outlined in Scripture.

¹ Oxford American Dictionary

- π Generate - to engage the youth with opportunities of faith development, service, evangelism and leadership as to prepare them for the work that Jesus Christ has in store for them.
- π Enter - to engage the youth with the conflicting values of culture and world that they must endure their entire lives, sending them as ministers of Christ to those lost, broken, unsure, unconfident and unaccounted for.

We find in Titus 3 that:

1. Christ engages us by...
 - a. Pledging salvation on the basis of mercy in kindness.
 - b. Establishing connection with us through grace.
 - c. Preparing our hearts as His dwelling.
 - d. Empowering us to do good deeds / enter into combat with evil forces.
2. We engage Christ responsively by...
 - a. Humbly accepting the grace and salvation Christ offers, agreeing to be His heirs.
 - b. Reserving our hearts for His dwelling.
 - c. Participating in the works that He is doing in and through us.
3. We engage others obediently by...
 - a. Following the example of Christ's incarnation (Philippians 2).
 - b. Attracting their interest as we live as Christ's vessels, with good character, by evidencing the fruits of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-26).
 - c. Establishing meaningful relationships with them based upon love, trust and hope.
 - d. Speaking truth to them (John 17:17).

INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY

In chapter 1 of the Gospel according to John, we see that Christ became flesh and made His dwelling among us. His purpose was to allow His light to shine among humanity and provide us with life. Jesus Christ was born as a man. He lived as a man. He also died as a man. Jesus took on flesh so that He could save the world. Though the flesh of Jesus Christ is dead, Jesus, Himself, is not dead. In fact, He is vibrantly living in and through those He calls 'His children'.

"Incarnational ministry" is a vision that reflects the truth that Jesus literally took on flesh for our sake. Now, as youth leaders, our goal is not to put on Christ. Our goal is to allow the person of Jesus Christ to work through us. As Christians, we believe that Christ is the living God. He lives through us the second that we commit our lives to Him and begin to live obediently. With this in mind, it is important that we do ministry like Jesus did. It is also very important that we do not allow ourselves to get in the way or prevent the work that Christ is doing in the lives of the youth, leaders and the church. As we will see, Incarnational ministry manifests itself in a vast number of ways.

PAX217 - Engage

So many of us breathin' and thinkin' that we know it all,
Walkin' like we're righteous, Forgettin' man's fall caused.
Pain from the womb and still men labor in vain
While their prides in the way death invented the tomb,
But we can overcome these tragedies in humanity
By lookin' at life through the lens of the Almighty,
Who manifest and died in flesh for our destiny.

I have learned a lesson from all the lessons I have learned.
Our lives have purpose unless we forget to send a message
To the wanderers (wanderers), Dreamers (dreamers),
To all the people with your beamers (come, come, come)—
Come, come, come out your cages called offices
And (pop, pop, pop) pop the bubbles that you're in.
Whether you're black, white, brown, gay, or Muslim,
(Where you from where you from kid) Buddhist or Christian,
Come, come, come, come out your cages (what, what) And engage this.

Engage! (Come on!) Engage! (Come on!)
Engage! (Come on!)
Tell your story to the world.
Engage! (Come on!) Engage! (Come on!)
Engage! (Come on!)
Let your actions speak love.

Hey what's your name? Where are you from?
What's on your mind? / Your eyes are tellin' me your numb.
From the streets and the static and memories in your attic
We've all got a scar but there's no need to panic
So many forgettin' and lettin' the souls go by / When all it would've taken is a few words to satisfy

I am not afraid / Of the universe. / You are freedom / I have liberty.

To the homeless in San Francisco, And the writers in L.A.,
To the suits in New York, The message remains the same.
To the wanderers (wanderers), Dreamers (dreamers),
To all the people with your beamers, (come, come, come)
Come, come, come out your cages called offices
And (pop, pop, pop) pop the bubbles that you're in.
Whether you're black, white, brown, gay, or Muslim,
(Where you from, where you from kid?) Jewish or Christian,
Come, come, come, come out your cages (what, what) And engage this.

CHORUS

I am not afraid / Of the universe. / We cannot forget / To send the message of ...
... Make it loud and clear.