

POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Mission & Values

Mission:

Our mission at PSBC is captured in the following phrase...

"Poplar Springs Baptist Church exist to make much of God by making disciples of Jesus Christ."

We believe God's glory is our greatest good. Therefore, making much of God is what matters to us at Poplar Springs. This means that we seek to reflect the glory of God in all that we do by growing to look more and more like Jesus Christ.

God's glory is the purpose of our existence. Our lives were created by God in his image to make his glory known. But sin has marred, broken, and distorted this and made us seek lesser glories, even our own. However, through the gospel of Jesus Christ, God's son, who is the image of and revealer of God's glory to mankind we are rescued, redeemed, and restored to our original purpose. We experience this as we surrender our lives in repentance and faith to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Then as our lives are conformed to his, and we become like him, we too will reflect the glory of God in all we are and do.

We make much of God best when we look and live like Jesus.

To help accomplish this purpose at PSBC we focus our resources and efforts in ministry at all levels on achieving five tasks as the church:

1) Exalting God in worship.

- Corporately when we gather.

Acts 2:46-47 – "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Psalms 95:6 – "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!"

- Daily in our lives.

Romans 12:1 – “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.”

2) Equipping ourselves with the Word.

- By preaching the Word.

1 Timothy 4:2 – “...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

- By teaching the Word

Acts 2:42 – “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

- By studying the Word

2 Timothy 2:15 – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

3) Engaging Neighbors and Nations on Mission.

- Engaging our neighbors.

Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- Engaging the nations.

Matthew 28:18-20 – “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.”

4) Empowering ourselves through prayer.

- *James 5:16 – “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”*

5) Existing together in community.

- *Hebrews 10:19-25 – “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 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.”*

We believe as these tasks shape our lives together at PSBC, we can be assured that God is glorified, and disciples are being made.

VALUES

Driving this mission are the convictions and principles that guide us on it. These are our values. More than ever before our culture needs clarity on who we are as the church and followers of Christ.

Our values make known what’s important to us as a church and disciples as we aim to carry out the mission of making much of God together.

At Poplar Springs we value the following on our mission:

1) The Sufficiency of Scripture.

The word of God is sufficient for us to accomplish the work of God. We need not look to the world’s ways to see God’s work accomplished.

2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 1:3 – “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence...”

Ezekiel 37:4-5 – “Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.”

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

2) Meaningful Membership

We aim to practice meaningful membership at PSBC. Belonging to Christ means belonging to his church. While all believers are part of the universal church and body of Christ, the expression of that is carried out through the local church. In fact, it's the local church that is most spoken of and addressed in Scripture. To be a Christian is not to just belong to *the* church (universal) but *a* church (local). We believe that should mean something.

3) Gospel Fluency

The gospel is the power of God at work in our lives, and its power affects everything in our lives. That means we want to believe and speak the truths of the gospel into the everyday stuff of life. We want to be fluent sharing the gospel with both sinners outside the church and the saints within the church.

Romans 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 – “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

4) Robust Doctrine

We want to dig down deep in the faith. When this happens through teaching and having robust doctrine. Deep doctrine develops deep Christians. “The conviction that Christian doctrine matters for Christian living is one of the most important growth points of the Christian life.”

Matthew 22:37 – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.”

Romans 11:33 – “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”

5) Expositional Preaching

The church rises and falls upon the preaching of God’s Word. The preaching of the Word of God is the most important mark of the church. We believe in the expositional preaching of God’s Word—preaching that starts with the text, is shaped by the text, and stays with the text. Because Scripture

2 Timothy 4:1-2 – “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

6) Kingdom Priority

How we do church is not about our personal preferences. As Christians we are not consumers seeking to have our desires met, but we are citizens of the Kingdom of God, who long to please our heavenly King. Our allegiance is to Christ, and we offer glad submission to him. Seeing his “kingdom come [and] will done on earth as it is in heaven” is the longing of our heart, no matter the sacrifice we must make or the cost to be paid.

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

7) Biblically Ordered Worship

It matters how we worship. We must get it right. Worship is the intentional declaring of and delighting in God's greatness, grandeur, and glory. There's a gravitas in worship of such a God. He alone is worthy of our worship, and he alone orders our worship. One of the enemies' great ploys is to have us believe that we can worship God anyway we choose. God's Word guides us in the order of our worship.

John 4:23 – "True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him."

8) The Supremacy of God

We recognize the supremacy of God over all things: our lives, our church, this world. He rules and reigns overall. His glory is the end for which the world was created. It's our end as well. That's why we strive to make much of him in all we do.

Psalms 115:1 – "Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory..."