



# DOCTRINE

ROOTED IN TRUTH



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# Jesus and His Church

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- Jesus sent His Church into the world to be His witnesses wherever we go
- Matthew 28:18–20 and Acts 1:8
- When we live as God's people, we show the world around us what God's kingdom is like.
- Jesus said this makes our church communities like a “city on a hill” (Matthew 5:14–16). In the ancient world, when people were traveling through the wilderness, seeing city lights ahead gave them hope they would soon arrive at a place of rest, safety, hospitality and peace.



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- But Scripture also tells us it's not enough for our churches to sit on the hill and wait for people to come to us.
- Jesus told His disciples to go into the world to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God (Luke 10:2).
- In His final words to His disciples before He ascended to heaven, Jesus told them to go and make disciples of all nations and to be His witnesses everywhere they went, even to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8).



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- This doesn't necessarily mean we are all called to travel to other countries to share the Gospel.
- In Acts 1:8, Jesus told them to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth but also where they already were – in Jerusalem and Judea.
- Some of the apostles went on missionary journeys to far-off countries, but many stayed where they were and shared the Gospel in their own towns.
- If we look at the grammar of the Great Commission in Greek, the only imperative verb (command) in that sentence is “make disciples.”



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- The other verbs (go, baptize and teach) all modify that main verb, describing how and when we make disciples.
- We make disciples by baptizing and teaching them, and we make disciples when going – “as we go” or even “wherever we go.”
- This means we don’t have to go somewhere else to make disciples.
- We can make disciples as we go through our daily lives, wherever we are.



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- Instead of thinking about “mission work” as something missionaries go and do in other countries, The Great Commission shows us that members of the Church are missionaries in their own daily life, wherever they go – every minute of every day in every situation.
- Being a missionary isn’t just a job or a calling; it’s our identity as Christians.
- Some Church leaders have recently started calling this “missional living” or “living on mission,” but it’s not a new concept.
- It’s been the mission of the Church since the beginning.



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- Our God is a sending God. He sent Jesus into the world to save the world (John 3:17), and Jesus told His disciples that just as God had sent Him into the world, so He was sending His disciples into the world (John 20:21).
- The Church does not exist just to gather as the *ekklesia* (the assembly) to worship, study, pray, encourage one another, and live in community, though we should do that (Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25).
- We also exist to go out into the world and make disciples. We are the *ekklesia* whether we are gathered together or out in the world.



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- All believers are called to live on mission for the Gospel every day, not just with our words but with our actions.
- This is part of what it means to be God's people, the hands and feet and mouth of Christ in the world.
- Sharing the Gospel isn't just something we do on short-term mission trips or evangelism events with our church.
- It's a way of life. It's how we live, talk, think, act, and treat people in everything we do and everywhere we go.



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# Jesus and His Church

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- A lot of people feel uncomfortable with the idea of evangelism, as if they don't know what to say or don't think they know enough about the Bible, theology or doctrine.
- But when Jesus described the mission to His disciples, He said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8).
- When witnesses testify in court, they don't have to know the answers to every question the lawyer might ask about the situation. They only must testify to what they saw and heard with their own eyes and ears, what they experienced firsthand.



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# Jesus and His Church

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- The same is true when we share the Gospel with people in our day-to-day lives.
- We don't have to have the answers to all their questions about Jesus, the Bible, and doctrine. We just tell them what we've experienced and how Jesus has changed our lives.
- Our personal testimonies can be the most impactful way to share the Gospel in our modern context, where people can be skeptical of theological debates but moved by personal stories.



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# Ambassadors of God's Kingdom

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- The Church are ambassadors of God's kingdom sent to the world
- 2 Corinthians 5:11–20
- In the ancient world, an ambassador was an envoy of people sent from one nation to another with a message offering peace from their king.
- Our king, Jesus, has fought a spiritual war with the prince of this world and has won the victory (John 12:31).
- He is now sending a message (2 Corinthians 5:19) from His kingdom offering peace to the citizens of this world.



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# Ambassadors of God's Kingdom

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- But Paul had an interesting way of describing this message.
- The description isn't of the conquering army's stomping into the world, declaring victory, and demanding obedience to our king.
- It is an offer of peace and reconciliation to the people of this world.
- Paul said God is making an appeal to the world through us. God isn't demanding worship, loyalty and obedience as the conquering king.
- He is offering for them to join His kingdom if they so choose. Paul said, "We implore you" (verse 20) and "we try to persuade others" (verse 11).



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# Ambassadors of God's Kingdom

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- Although Jesus could have demanded worship, His people did not come in and demand that the people of the world bow down to Him as their king.
- They offered the good news of reconciliation with God through Christ.
- Even the ambassadors' message of peace is upside-down from the way the kingdoms of the world work.
- Because the way Christ's victory was won was upside-down from the way the world fights their battles.
- Not by might but by sacrifice. Not by violence but by love.



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# Ambassadors of God's Kingdom

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- Paul said the love of Christ was what compelled them to share the Gospel, to go out into the world as His ambassadors with the message of reconciliation and make disciples everywhere they went.
- They didn't share the Gospel out of obligation, duty or religious pressure to win as many souls as possible. They didn't share it out of the need to show the world they were right or on the winning side.
- They shared it out of love, the kind of love that compelled Jesus to die for all of us (verse 14).



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# Ambassadors of God's Kingdom

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- This is the heart of the ambassadors of God's kingdom, a heart motivated by Jesus' love for the world.
- When we share the Gospel with others, it's not about being right or winning an argument.
- It's about loving the other person enough to share with him or her how to be saved.
- It's inviting others into the kingdom of peace, love, joy and abundant life.



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# The Church Ministry

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- The Church is called to incarnational ministry with people in the world
- John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 9:19–23
- The greatest model of what it looks like to live on mission is Jesus Himself.
- Jesus didn't sit up in heaven waiting for people to come to Him.
- He came down to our world and met people where they were, in the middle of their mess (John 1:14).



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# The Church Ministry

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- Then once He was in the world, He didn't live in a segregated "holy huddle" with only the "good religious people" around Him and wait for people to come to Him for teaching, healing or salvation.
- Jesus did gather a group of disciples to live in community with Him, but He also did not hesitate to go out into the world to meet people where they were, even when the "good religious people" criticized Him for befriending sinners (Luke 15:2).



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# The Church Ministry

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- This is because Jesus' attitude wasn't only missional, it was incarnational.
- Theologically, we use the term "incarnation" to describe how He became a human being.
- He was God incarnate, God in the flesh, God becoming one of us to meet us where we are. But it wasn't only His birth that was incarnational.
- Jesus also lived incarnationally in His day-to-day life. He lived among His people, meeting people where they were, and building relationships with them. He lived on mission, but He didn't treat people like projects.



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# The Church Ministry

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- Paul described the same style of incarnational ministry in Corinthians.
- Just as the religious leaders criticized Jesus for befriending sinners, people criticized Paul for the way he preached the Gospel, particularly for living like a Gentile when sharing the Gospel among the Gentiles.
- Paul described his ministry as becoming “like a Jew” to win the Jews and “like a Gentile” to win the Gentiles and so on.
- He “became all things to all people” so he might win some of them to the Gospel.



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# The Church Ministry

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- Paul was describing the process of meeting people where they are and connecting with them to show them how Christ can change their lives.
- For a missionary going to a foreign country, this would mean learning their language, eating their food, dressing the way they do – being truly immersed in the culture to “become one of them” the way Jesus became one of us.
- But those of us who live as missionaries in our daily lives here in the US can live incarnationally among the people we’re trying to reach for the Gospel, too.



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# The Church Ministry

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- This doesn't mean we aren't still set apart from the world in the sense of living by God's ways in righteousness.
- None of these things requires us to be like the world in sinfulness.
- These things are all ways of connecting with the people of the world; it's how we live "in the world but not of the world."
- When we do these things to live missionally, it's part of living set apart for God and His kingdom, for His mission.



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# The Church Ministry

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- That's the distinction Paul was making here. He became "like the world" in a way that built connection with people he was hoping to save, but he remained set apart for God in purity and righteousness.
- Living among the people we are trying to save instead of separated in a "holy huddle" in our church communities. Treating those we are reaching out to like real people, not projects. Meeting them where they are, building relationships, and making real connections that lead to real conversations about how Jesus can change their lives.
- This is incarnational ministry.



# Impact of the Church Through History

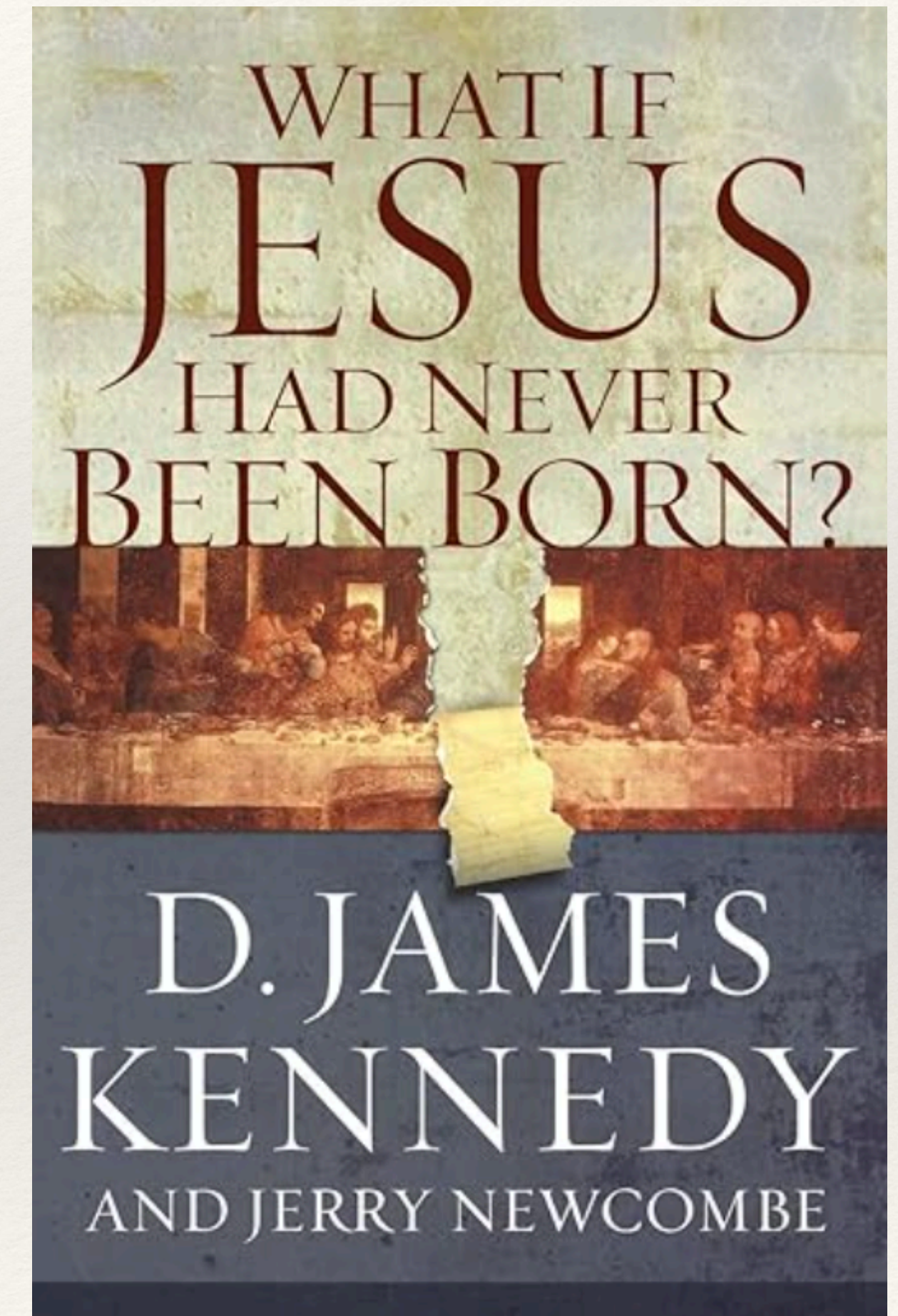


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# Impact Through History

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- D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe ask, *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?*
- Put another way, What if the church of Jesus Christ never existed in Western Civilization.?
- They look at the entire spectrum of human existence: civil liberties, medicine, the arts, economics, sexuality, education and morality.





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# Impact Through History

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- Hospitals - essentially began during the Middle Ages
- Universities - also began in the Middle Ages, most universities were started by Christians for Christian purposes
- Literacy and education for the masses
- Capitalism and free enterprise, Protestant work ethic
- Representative government, especially influenced in America
- Civil liberties and separation of powers, higher standards of justice



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# Impact Through History

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- The abolition of slavery, both in antiquity and in modern times
- Discovery of the New World by Columbus
- The elevation of women
- Benevolence and charity, modeled by the Good Samaritan
- Origin of science and the scientific method
- Condemnation of various sexual practices: adultery, homosexuality, etc.
- Inspiration for great art



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# Resources

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